

# AKIRA

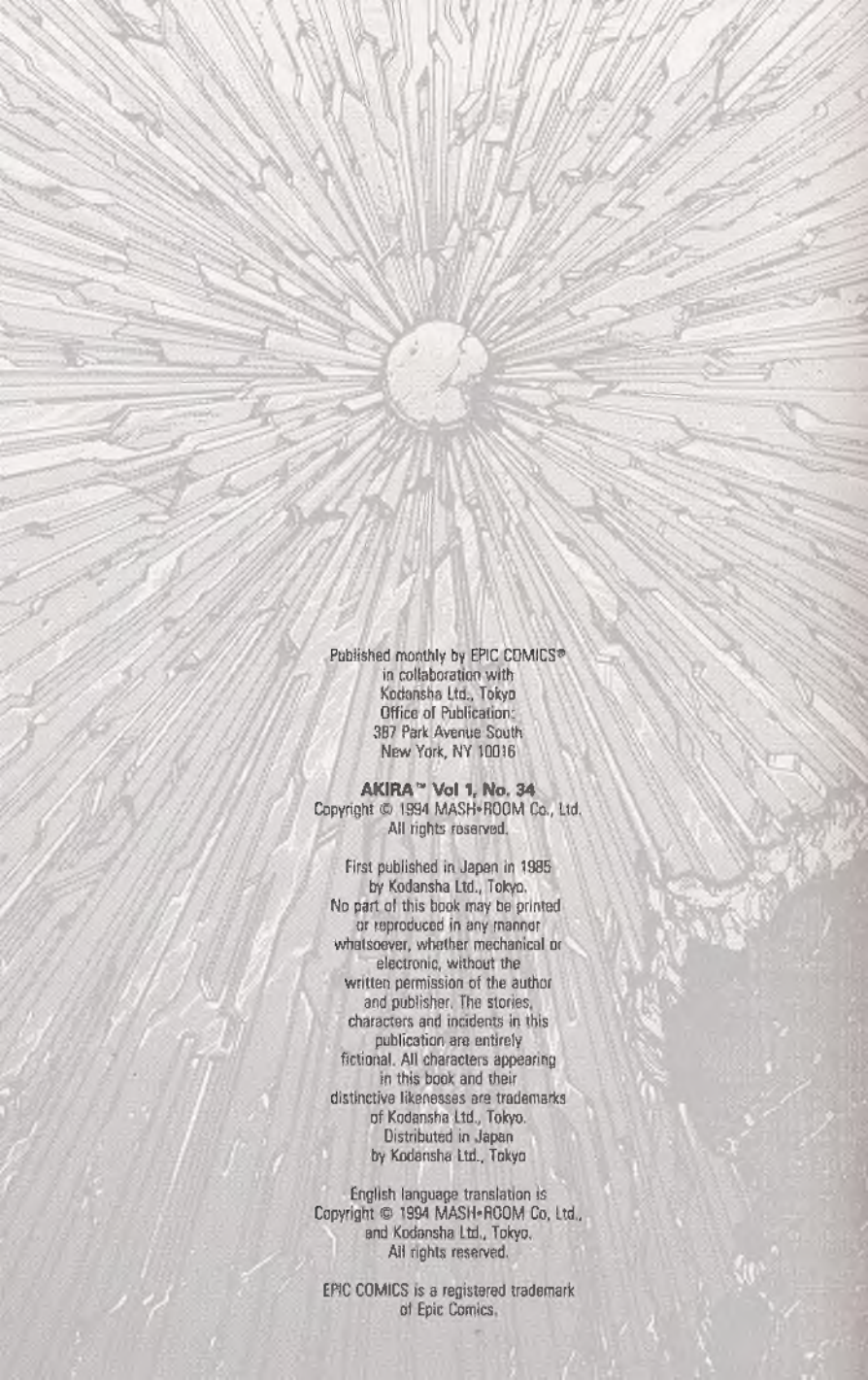
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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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# AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 34

## PHANTOM VOICES

## WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

**2**030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, onetime leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each was identified by a number tattooed on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—was once among their ranks but now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tet-**

**suo**, once Kaneda's friend but now his greatest enemy. **Tet-suo** lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite SOL, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic replacement.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—**Akira**—a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost 40 years ago, after his mental blast started the Third World War. **Akira** was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of **Neo-Tokyo**. Japan now exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance are scattered, and the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrol the streets.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo**, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. To the East, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is



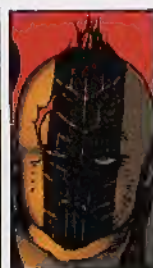
Kaneda



The Colonel



Lady Miyako



Joker





aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal, psychic monks.

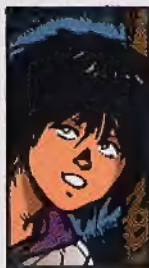
The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies of commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on Tetsuo's forces. A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon—which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**. One of the scientists—**Stanley Simmons**—goes ashore without military authorization, hoping desperately to implement a secret plan.

Meanwhile **Lady Miyako**, **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** convince **Kay** to join them in battle against **Tetsuo**, because **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project

their powers and strike as one.

**Kaneda**, who's teamed up with **Kai** and **Joker**—a friend and a rival from his gang days—vows to kill **Tetsuo** himself rather than let **Kay** face such danger. He, **Kai** and **Joker** launch an assault against Tetsuo, using most of their men, as well as such state-of-the-art weapons as they've salvaged, including laser rifles, flying platforms, and one caretaker robot. At the Olympic Stadium, they find destruction and chaos. Their enemy is already under attack by **Kay**, the outside forces, and even disloyal subjects of his own empire.

In battle, **Tetsuo** loses control, and his artificial arm assumes a grossly mutated form. He runs amok, killing anyone who comes too close. His power has grown beyond what his body can contain and is now trying to absorb its



**Kaori**



**Kiyoko**



**Kay**



**Lt. Yamada**



surroundings. His body begins to alternate between a normal human form and an immense, uncontrollable, bloated grotesquerie.

**Kaori**, the girl **Tetsuo** loves, is murdered by traitors. While **Tetsuo** is mourning her, he and his followers are attacked by the armed infiltrators. **Tetsuo's** supporters die horribly, while **Akira** looks placidly on. **Tetsuo**, shot by the biochem weapons, is enraged, and his enemies, too, die a hideous death.

Ironically, the germs in the weapons affect **Tetsuo** like a drug, enabling him to reassert mastery over his powers. A duel in the stadium ensues, with **Kay** and **Kaneda** using lasers and telekinesis against him. The fight goes on and on, with the advantage shifting time and again. **Kaneda** sends **Kai** to safety with **Akira**, and **Kai** hands the boy over to

another gang member, hoping to find **Joker** and return to the fray.

Then, the international fleet in the harbor sends fighter planes to rain death upon **Neo-Tokyo** causing chaos among all the combatants. **Akira** slips away from his guardians and rejoins **Kaneda** in the stadium, saying that he's been called by a power from above. The power is an orbiting laser cannon which the admiral of the fleet has ordered fired at the stadium. The laser pauses to recharge just before firing at **Tetsuo**, and **Tetsuo** transports himself to space, seizing control of the weapon.

Before the ships can be evacuated, **Tetsuo** fires the cannon at the fleet. For a finale, he brings the entire satellite crashing down upon the bridge of the flagship where the admiral commands.



**Chiyoiko**



**Tetsuo**

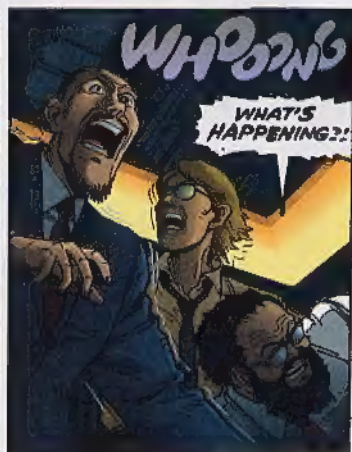
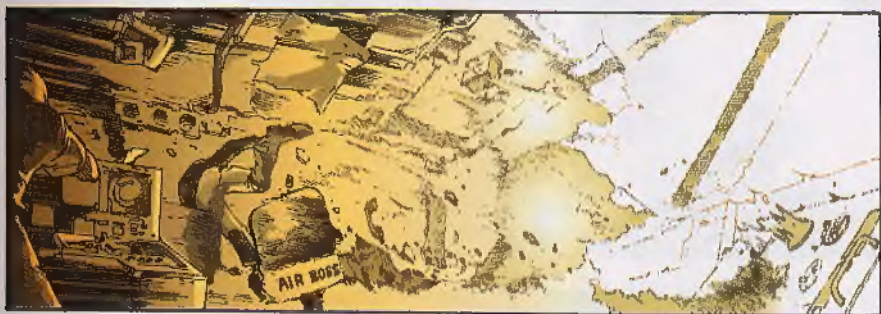


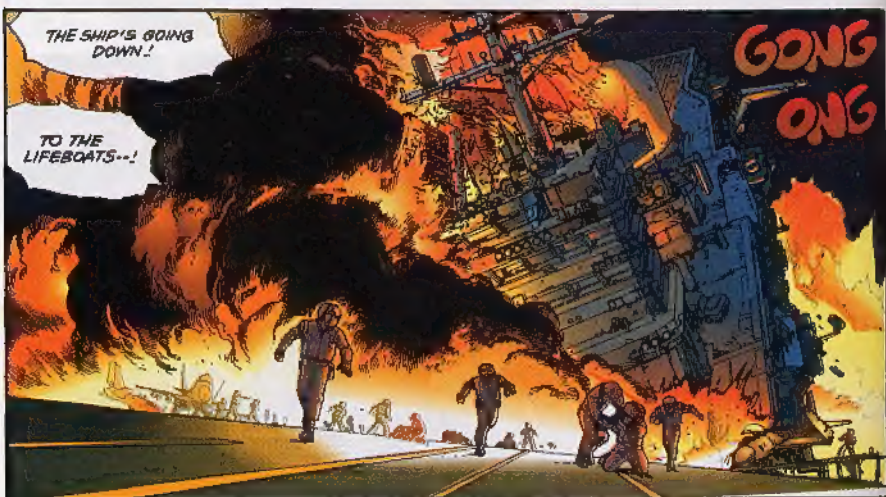
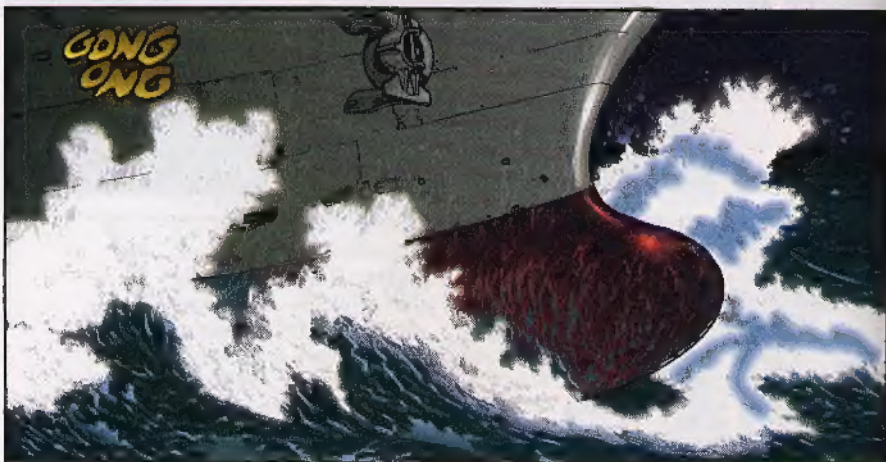
**Masaru**



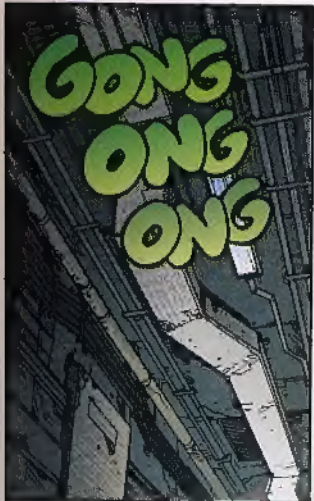
**Akira**





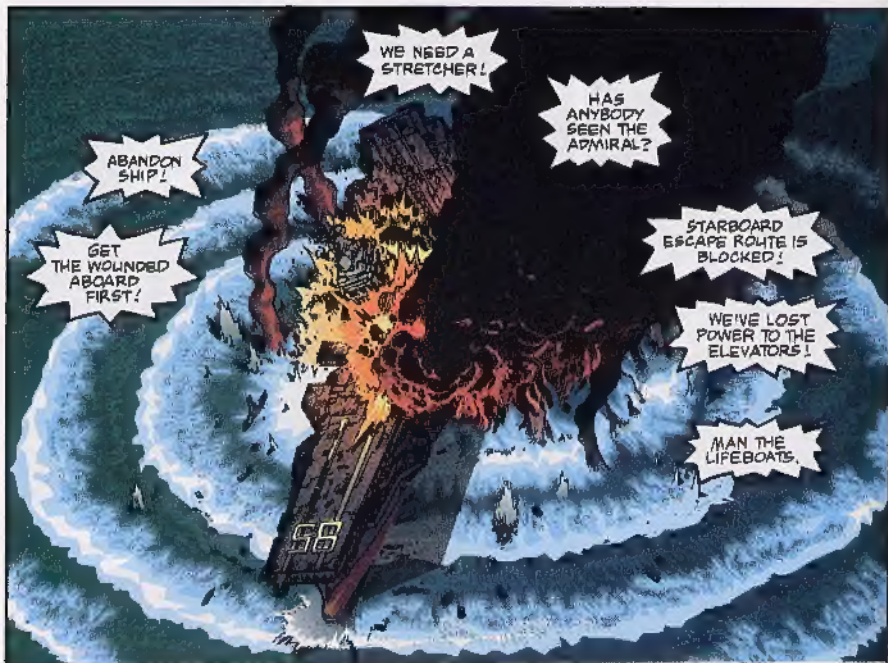




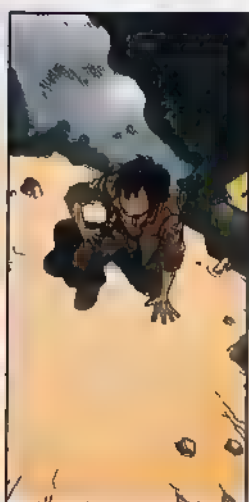
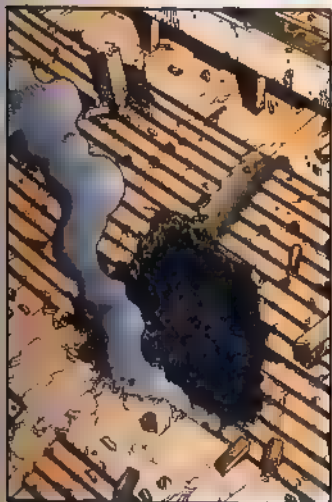


IT'S TOO LATE, BERNARD!  
THAT PART OF THE  
SHIP IS GONE!

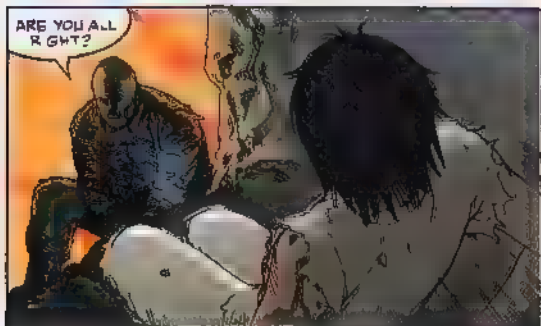
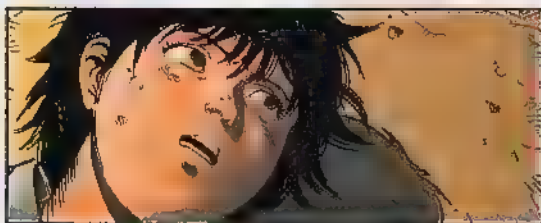














DID YOU--?!

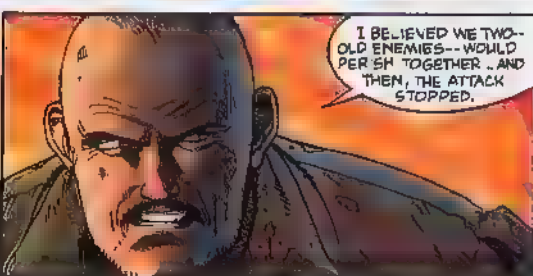


THEY HAVE DECODED THE SEAL ON SOL.



I GAVE YOU WHAT AID I COULD

AS YOU CAN SEE, MY OWN LEGS ARE...

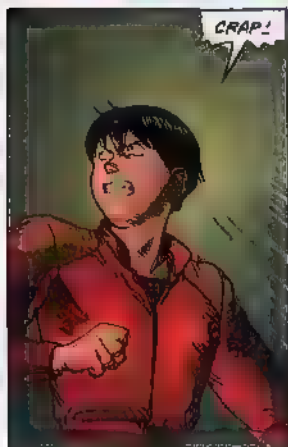
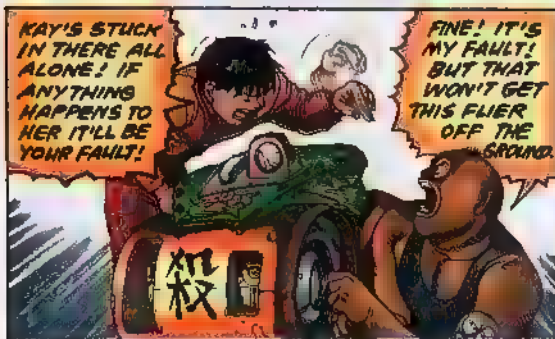
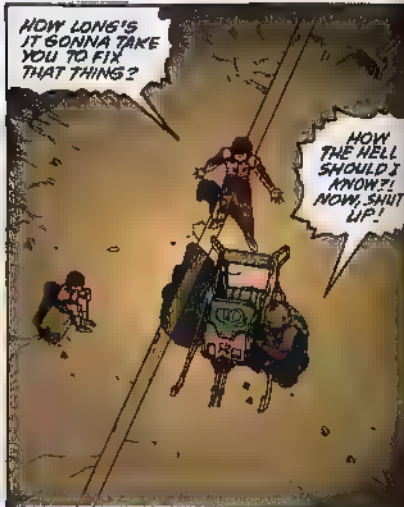


I BELIEVED WE TWO-OLD ENEMIES--WOULD PER SH TOGETHER...AND THEN, THE ATTACK STOPPED.

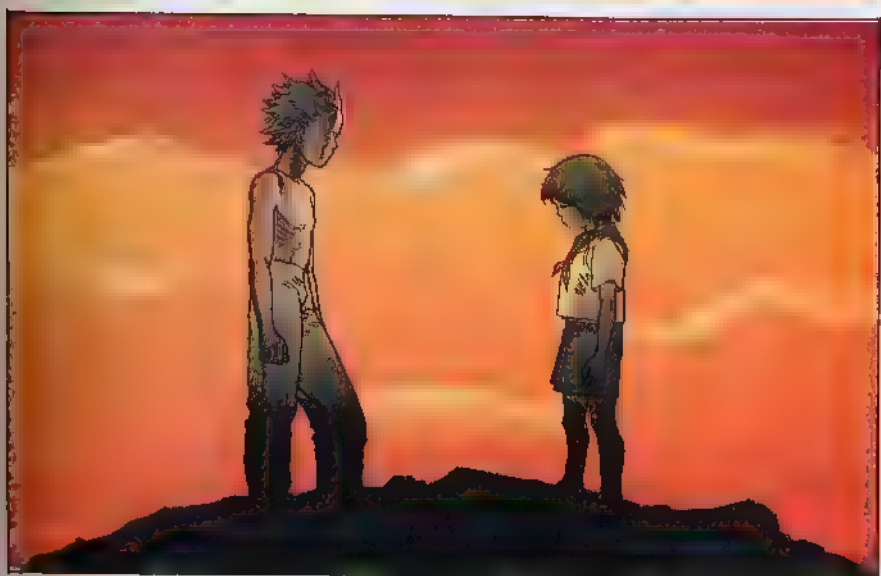
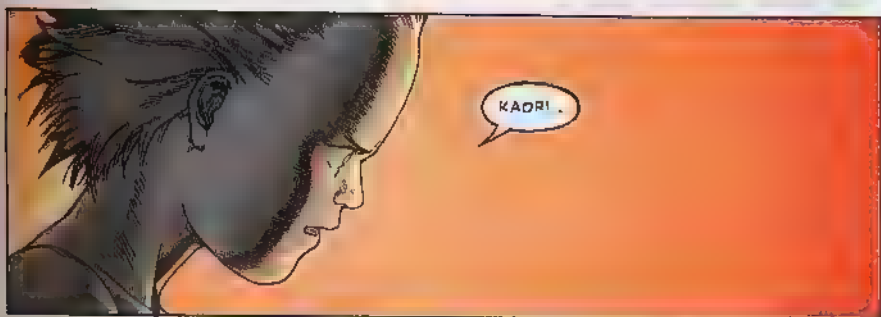
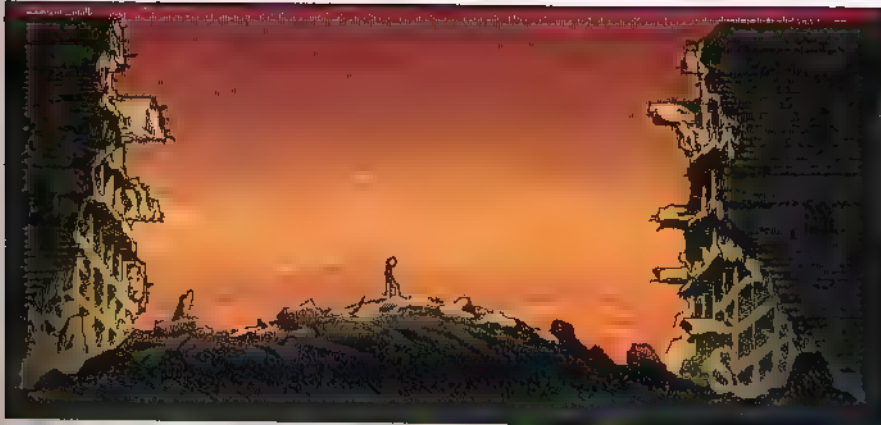


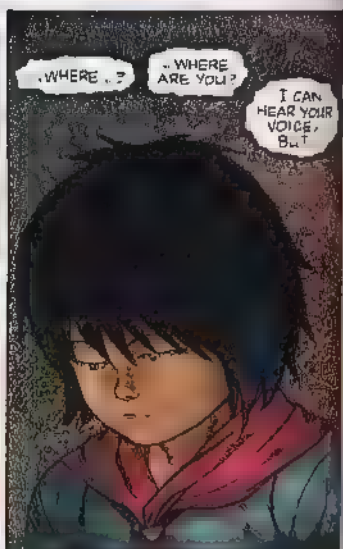
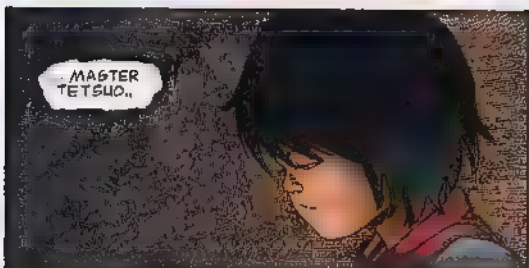
OHH--!

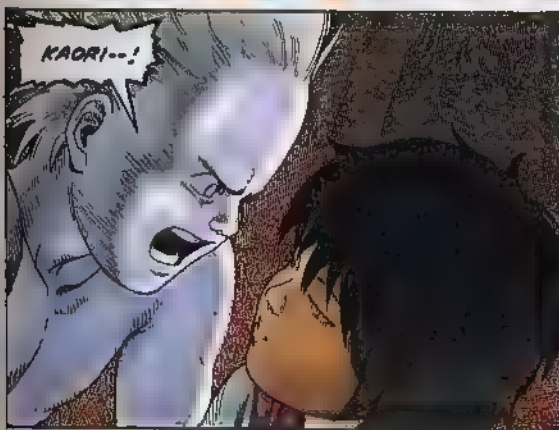
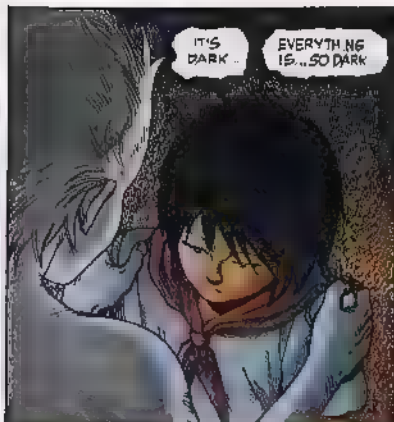
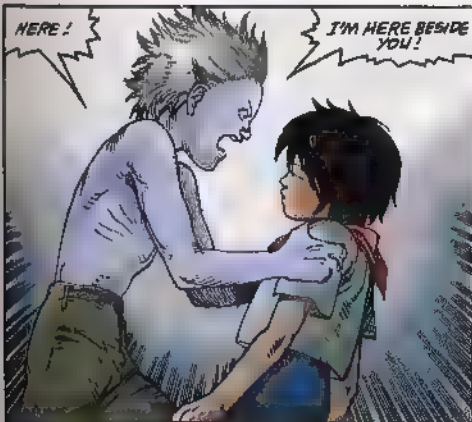
KANEDAAA--!













OH, KAORI...

DAMMIT!

I CAN'T FIX  
THE ENGINE  
WHEN IT'S TOO  
DARK TO  
SEE!

KLANK

TROUBLE  
IS, YOU PUT TOO  
MUCH FAITH IN  
MACHINES.

I'M TIRED OF  
WAITING!

YOU  
MEAN...

...YOU'RE  
GOING  
IN UN-  
ARMED  
?!



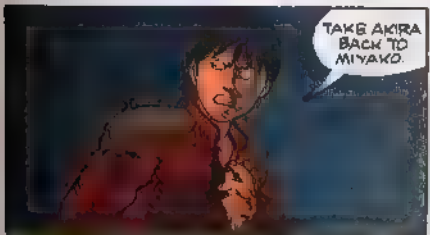
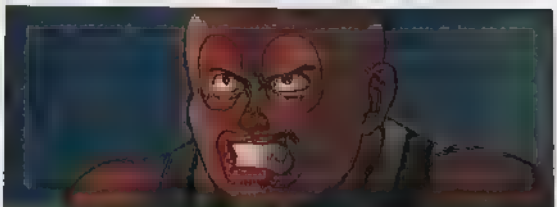
THE MORE THAT  
BASTARD'S POWER  
GROWS...

...THE LESS  
CONTROL HE'S  
GOT OVER THE  
SMALL  
STUFF.

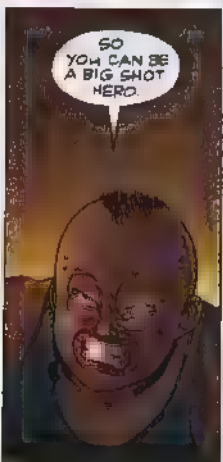


BEST TIME  
TO STRIKE...

..IS NOW THAT  
HE CAN'T DO ANY-  
THING SUBTLE.



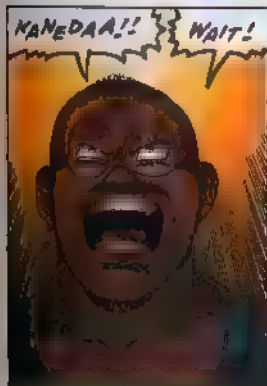
TAKE AKIRA  
BACK TO  
MIYAKO.



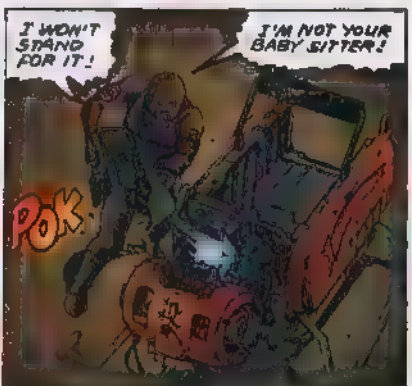
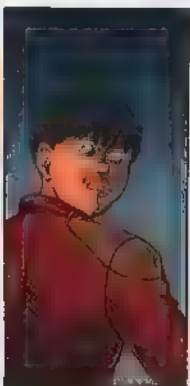
SO  
YOU CAN BE  
A BIG SHOT  
HERO.



I TOLD YOU, JOKER THIS  
IS PERSONAL BETWEEN  
TETSUO AND ME



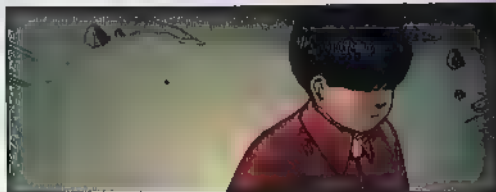
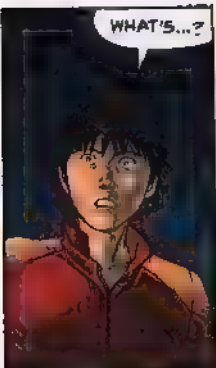
KANEDAA!! WAIT!



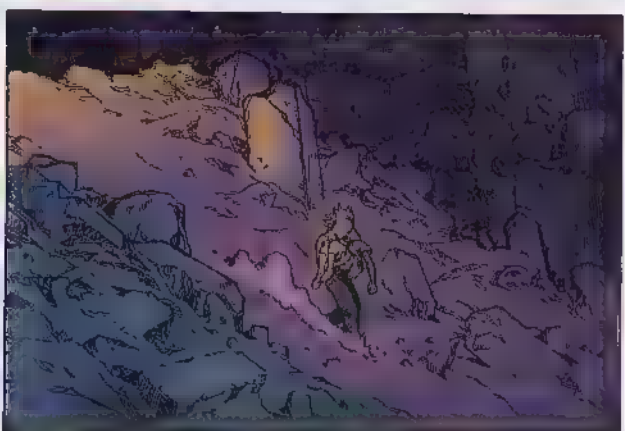
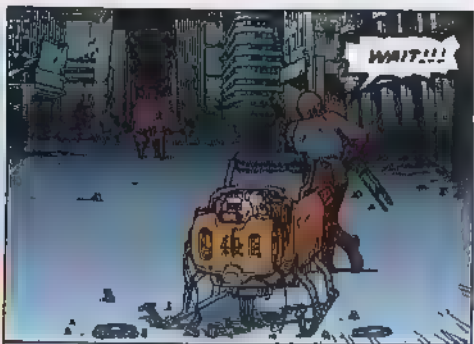
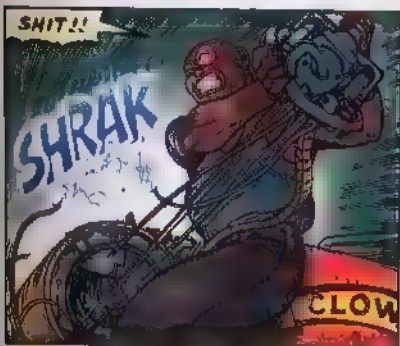
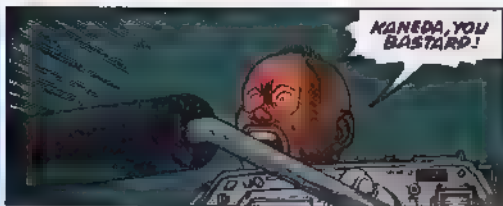
I WON'T  
STAND  
FOR IT!

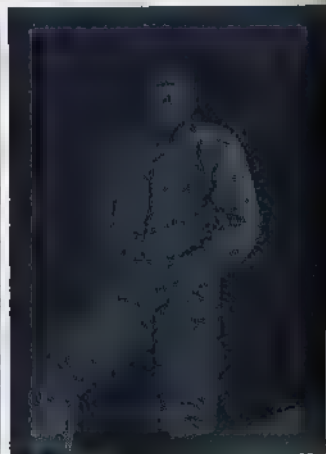
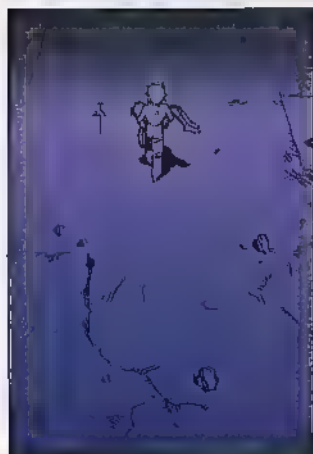
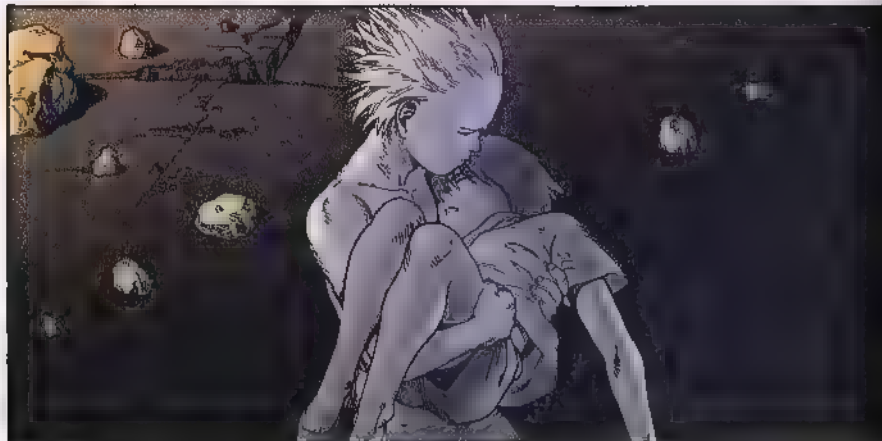
I'M NOT YOUR  
BABY SITTER!

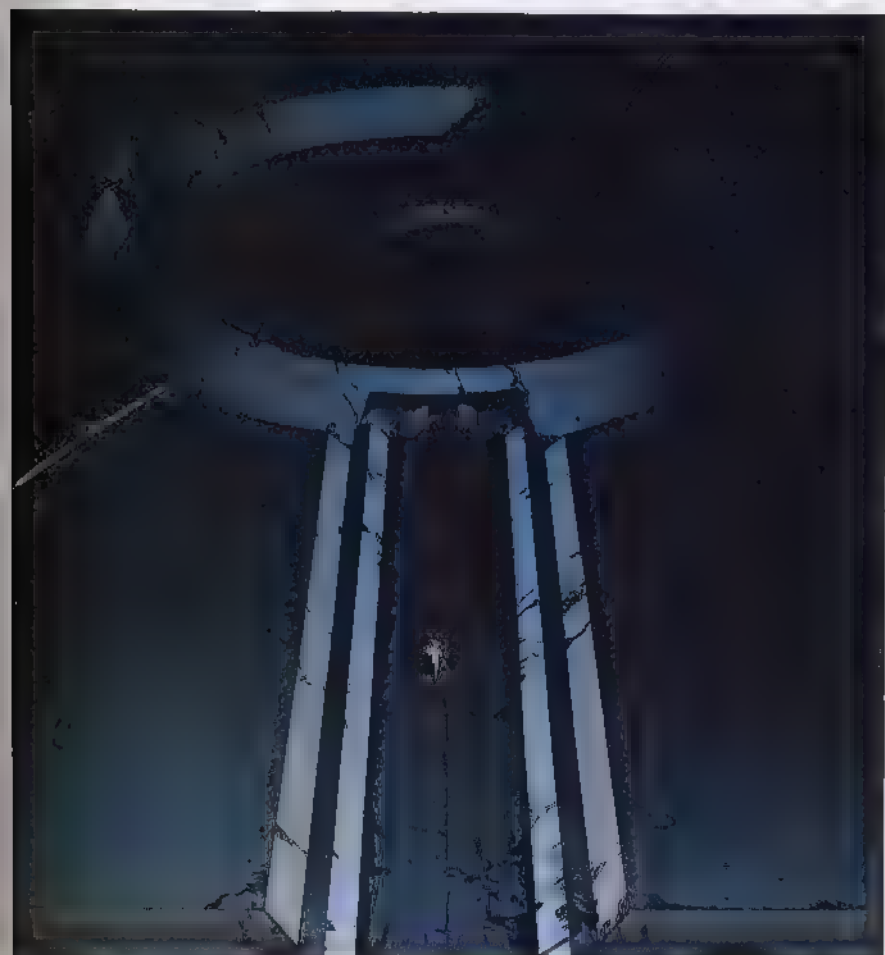
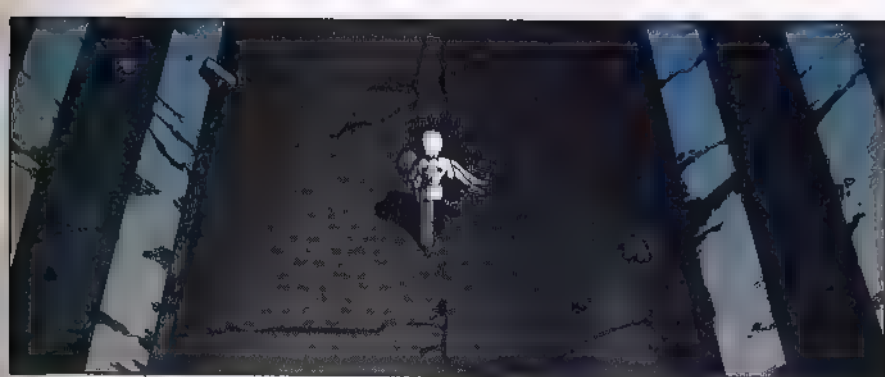
POK.



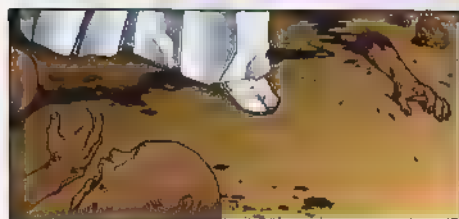
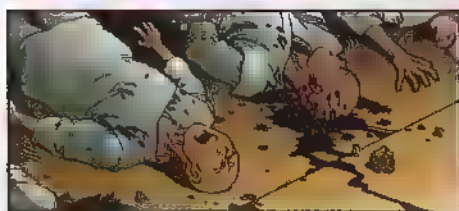
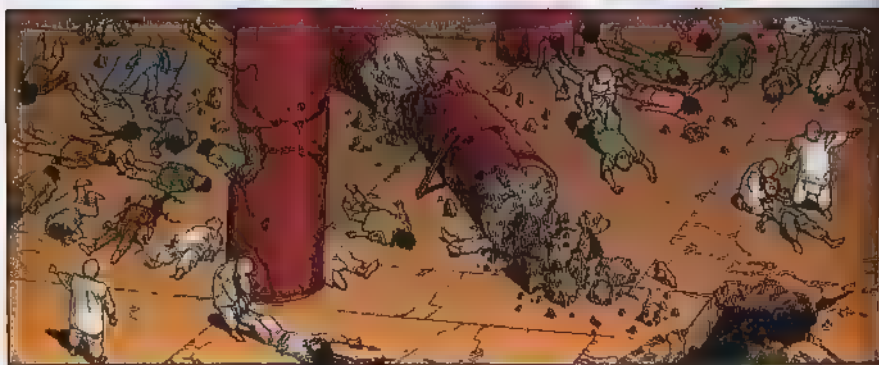
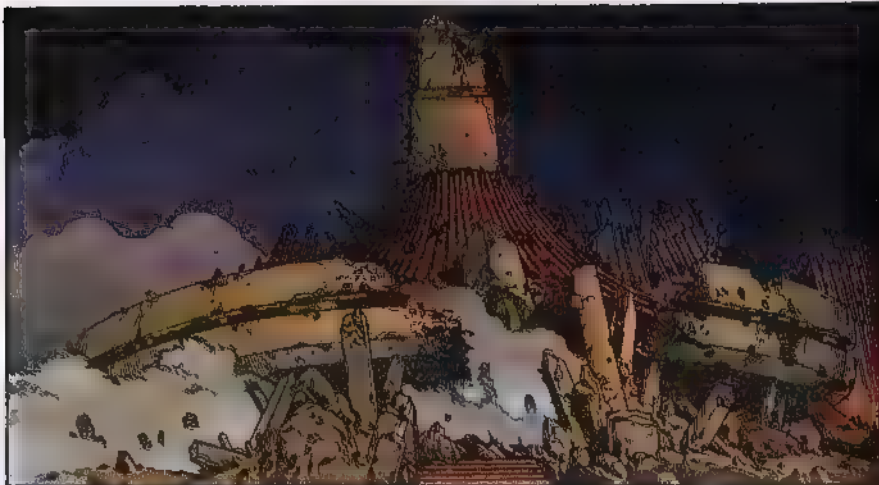












COME QUICKLY!

NEVER MIND  
THE DEAD! IT'S THE  
SURVIVORS WHO'LL  
BENEFIT FROM OUR  
AID!

HERE  
SHE  
COMES

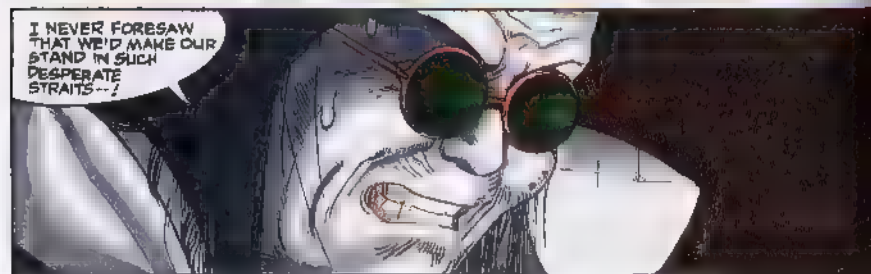
HOW IS  
KIYOKO?

I NEED... A  
PILL...

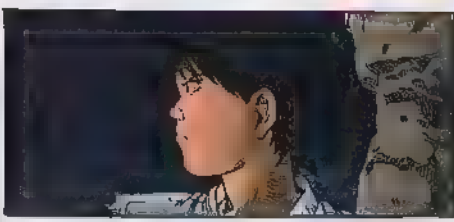
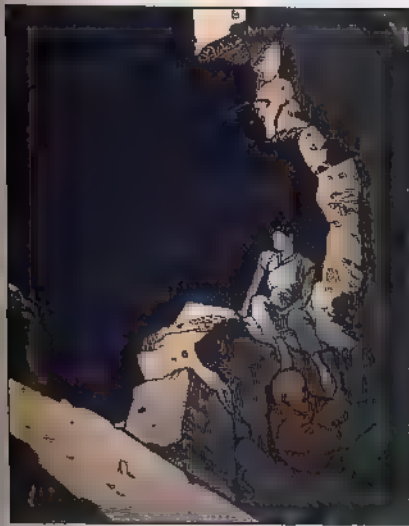
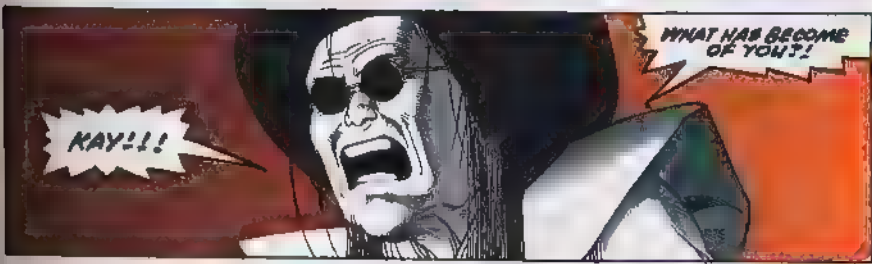
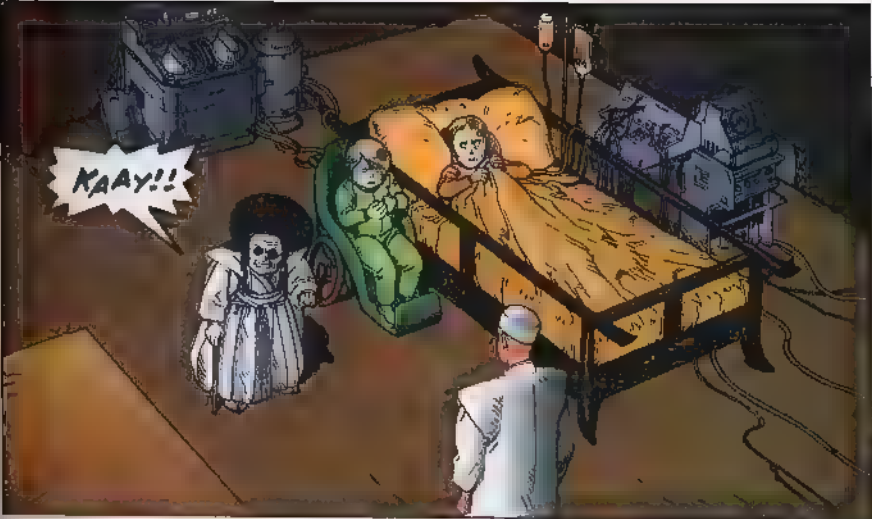
I... SEE

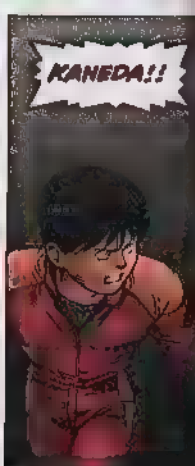
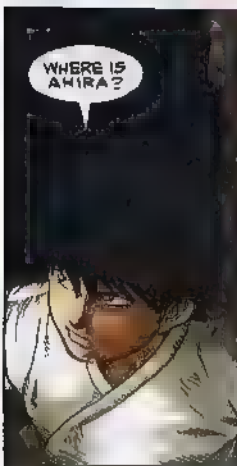
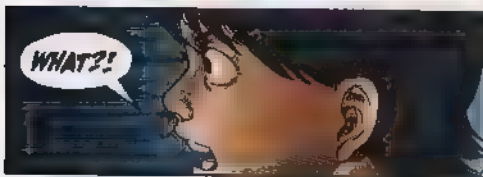
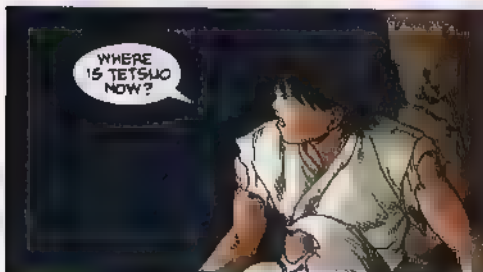
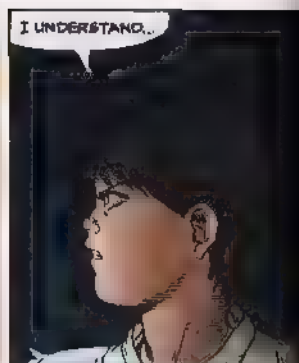
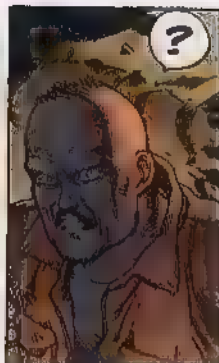
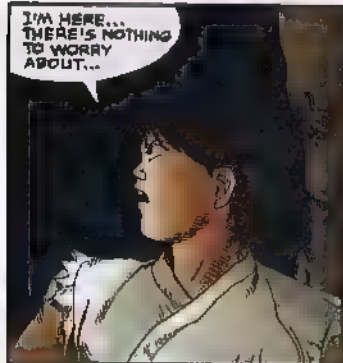
OUR STORES WERE  
DESTROYED

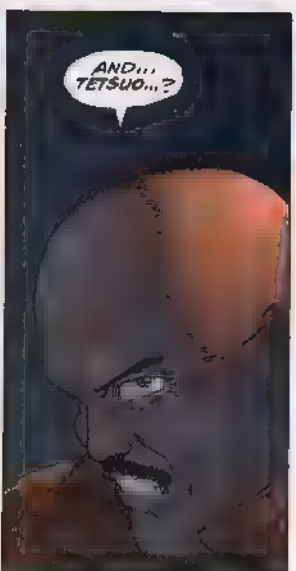
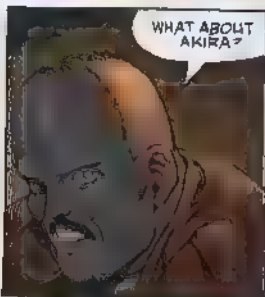
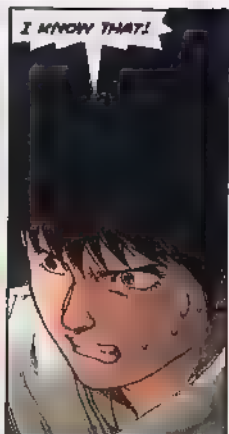
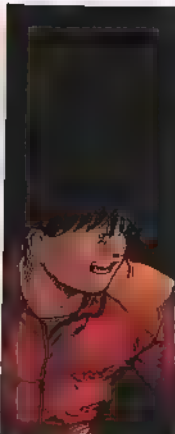
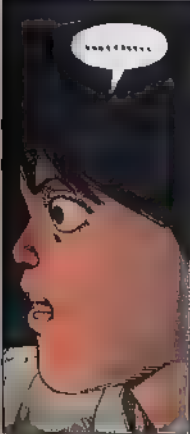
THESE ARE ALL I  
HAVE LEFT.



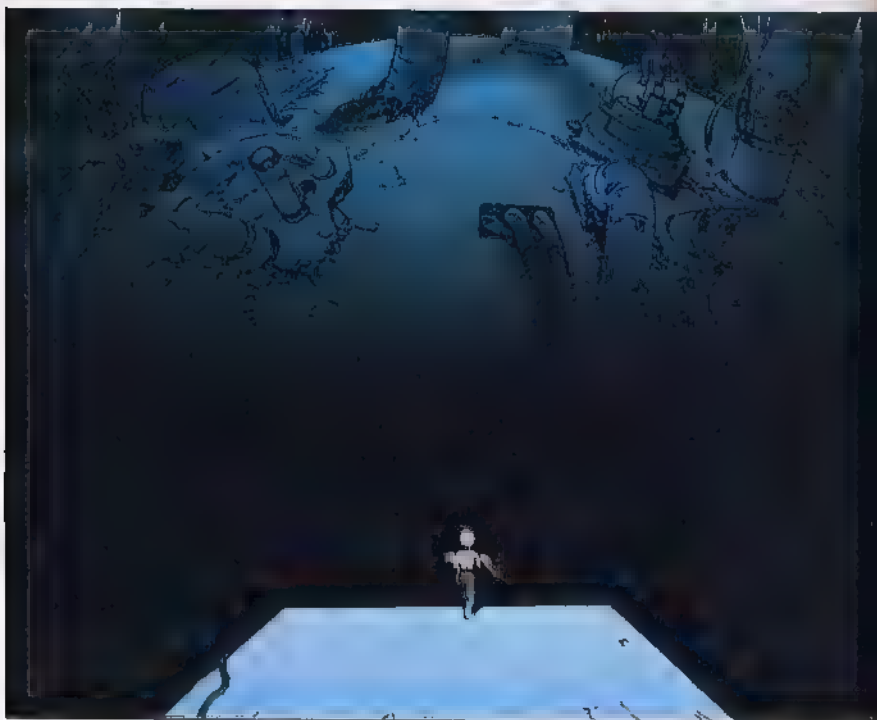








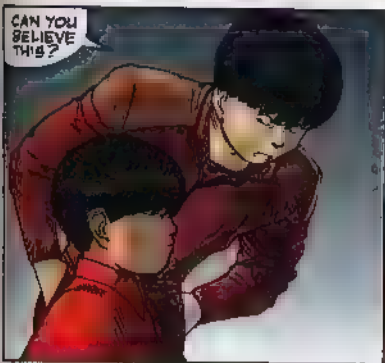






AT  
LEAST TELL ME  
WHO'S CALLING  
YOU!

HOW RE  
THEY CALLING? CAN  
YOU HEAR RADIO  
WAVES?



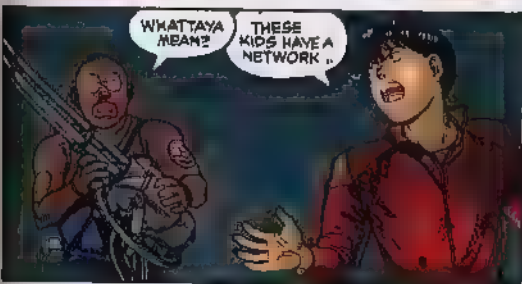
CAN YOU  
BELIEVE  
THIS?



AFTER ALL WE'VE  
BEEN THROUGH, THIS  
KID'S SO UN-  
SOCIALABLE!



Y'KNOW... MAYBE  
THEY'RE ALL  
LINKED BY  
STRING AND  
PAPER CLIPS...



WHATTAYA  
MEAN?

THESE  
KIDS HAVE A  
NETWORK ..



THE WAY THEY'RE  
ALL TUNED IN  
TO EACH  
OTHER.

EACH ONE ALWAYS  
SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT  
THE OTHERS ARE  
DOING.



LIKE SOME  
KIND OF  
MUTANT  
CB...

THAT'S A LOW  
CLASS, RETRO  
WAY OF PUTTING  
IT.

HEY, RADIO'S  
MORE SCIENTIFIC  
THAN A TOY  
TELEPHONE

THERE'RE SOME  
DISCOVERIES  
SCIENCE ISN'T  
UP ON

HUNH?



SOMEONE'S  
COMING!

CLICK  
CLICK



HOLD IT!



HMM?



CHIYOKO!



KANEKA...!?



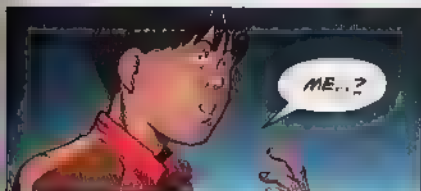
ARE  
YOU  
FEELING  
BETTER  
?

COMPLETE-  
LY.

I  
CAME  
TO  
LOOK  
AFTER  
YOU.



ME...?

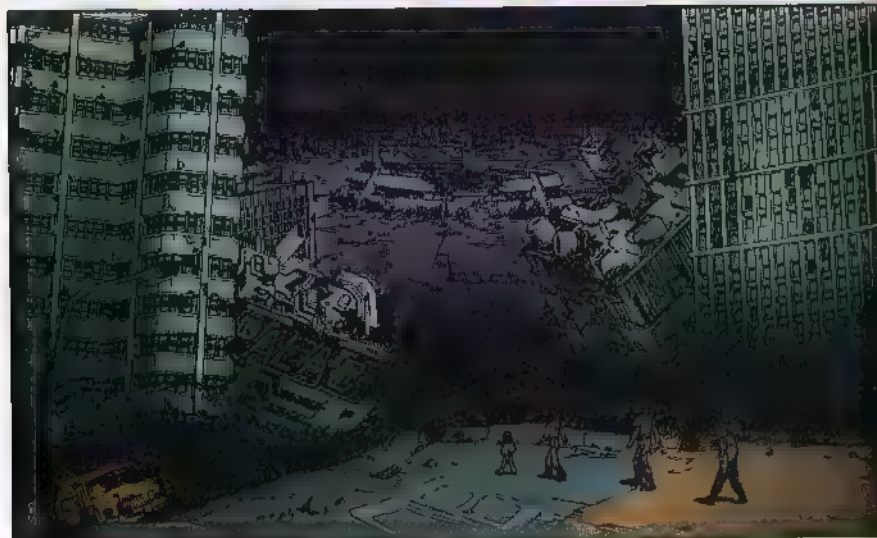


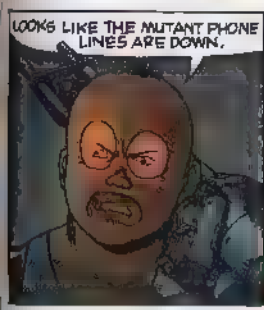
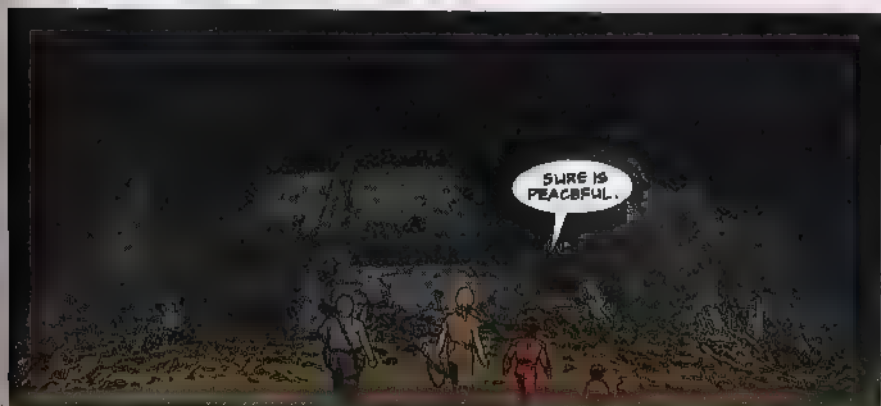
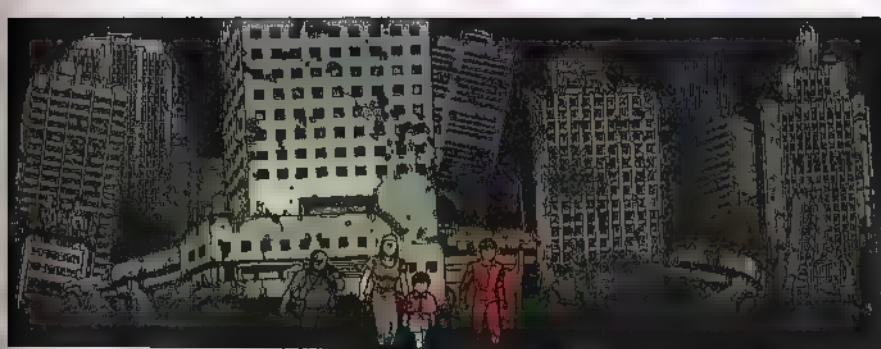
THAT'S STUPID! KAY'S  
THE ONE WHO NEEDS  
HELP! WE'RE ON  
OUR WAY TO SAVE  
HER!



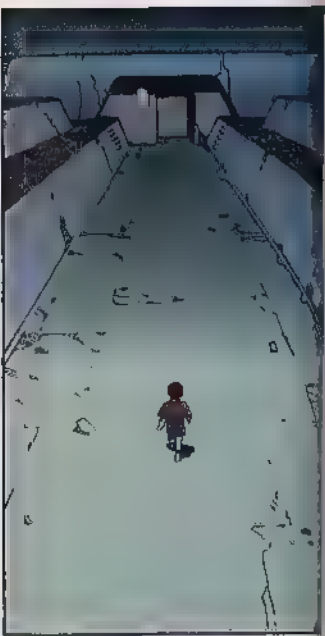
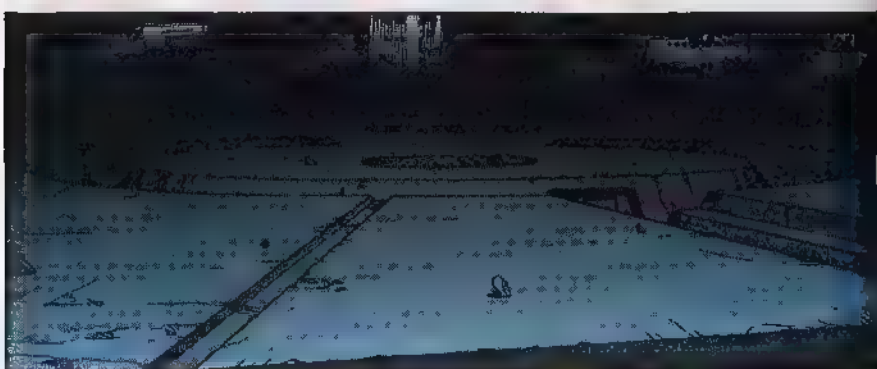
YOU TAKE TOO  
MANY CHANCES  
KAY WAS  
WORRIED.

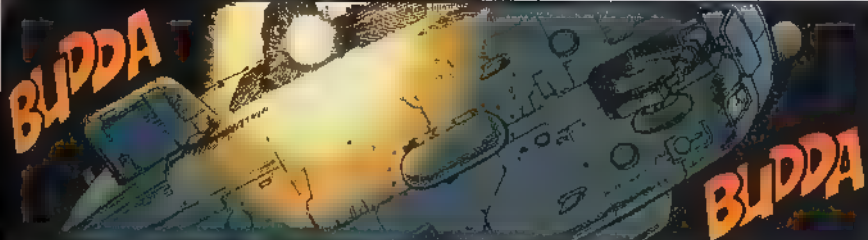








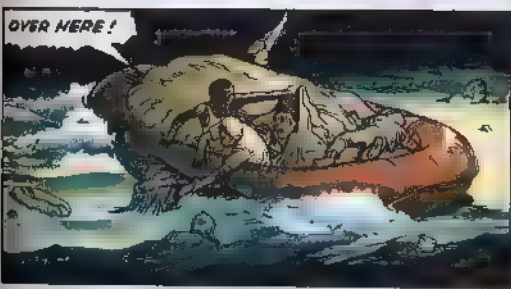




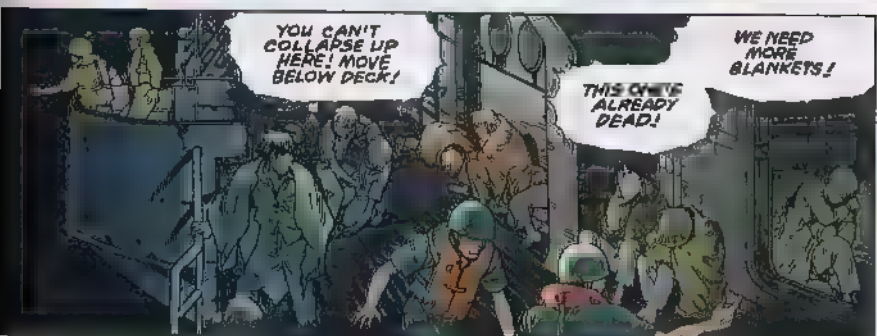
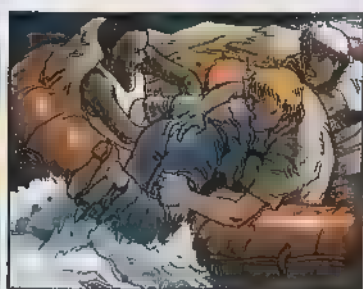
MOVE AWAY FROM  
THE SHIP. WE CAN'T  
ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN  
ONE BOATLOAD OF  
SURVIVORS AT A  
TIME.

BRING THE  
WOUNDED THIS  
WAY.

PROCEED UP THE  
LADDER IN AN  
ORDERLY FASHION.



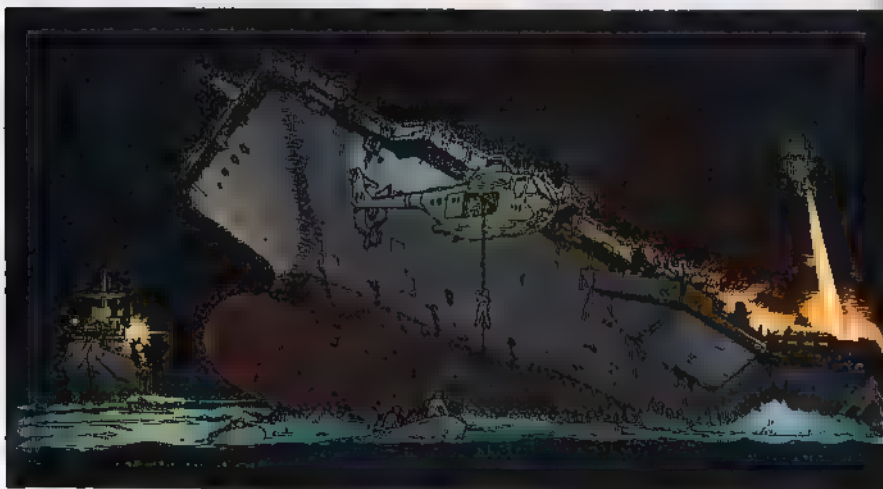
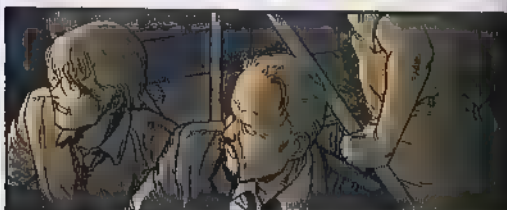
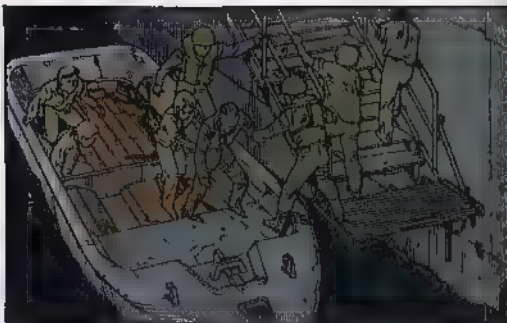
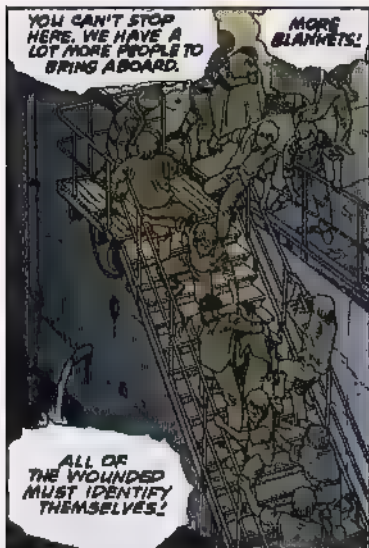
OVER HERE!



YOU CAN'T  
COLLAPSE UP  
HERE! MOVE  
BELOW DECK!

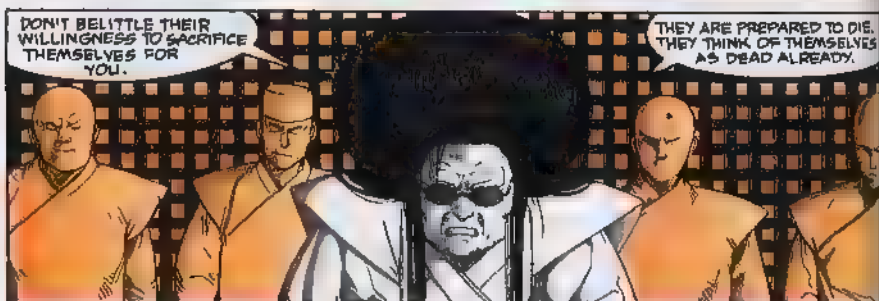
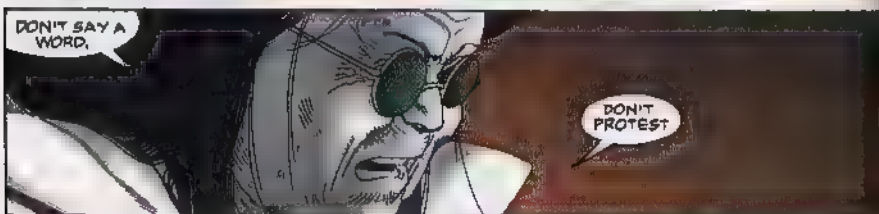
THIS ONE  
ALREADY  
DEAD!

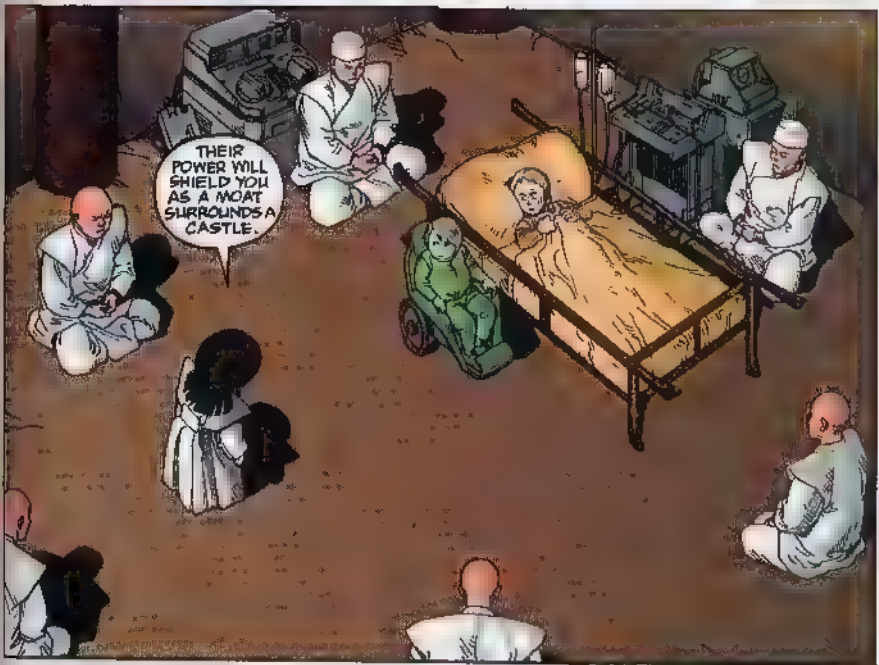
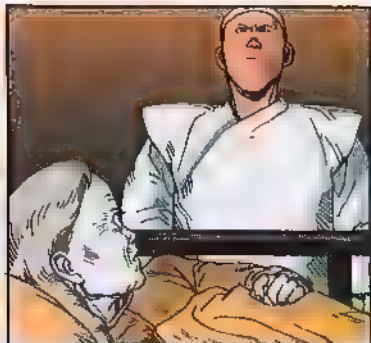
WE NEED  
MORE  
BLANKETS!

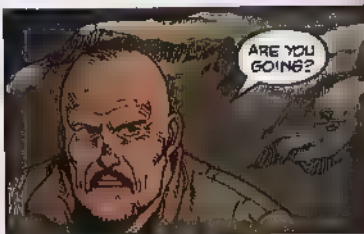
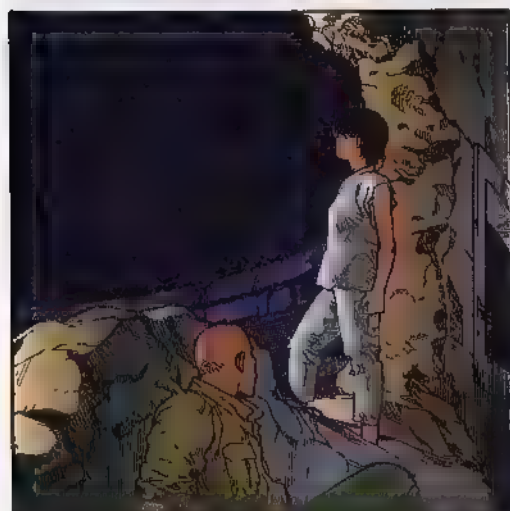
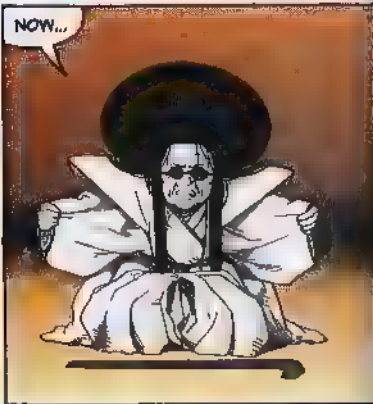




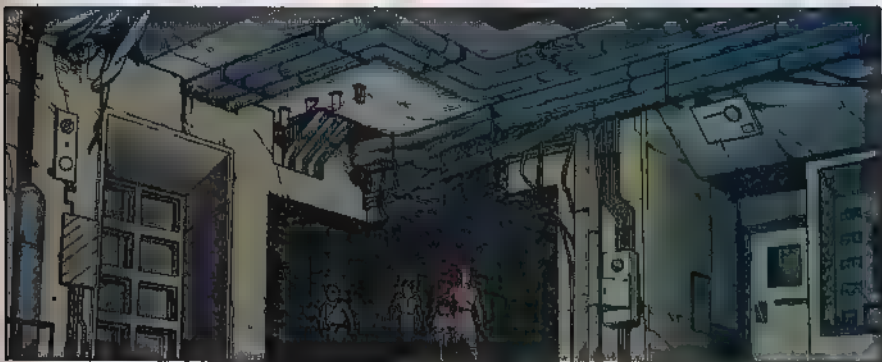
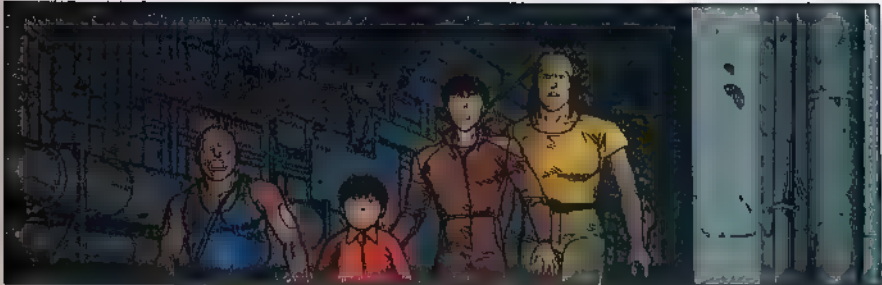


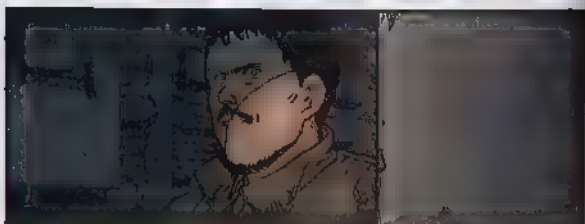
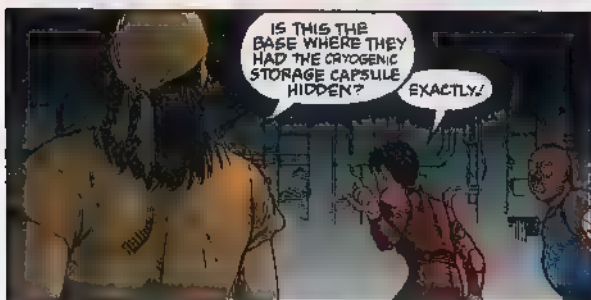
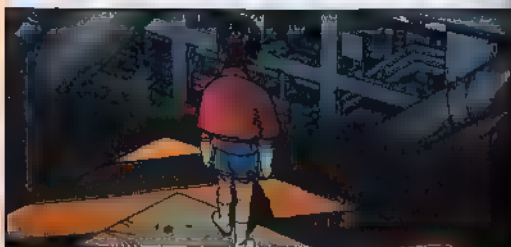
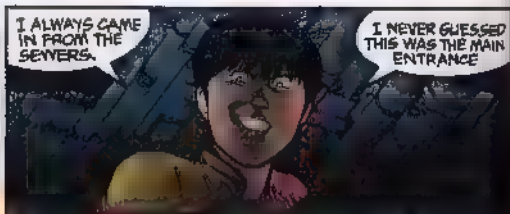
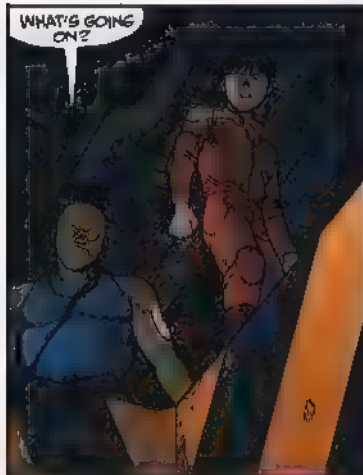


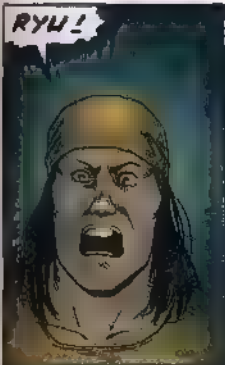
















RIGHT.  
EXACTLY  
WHO WE'RE  
AFTER



HE WAS CARRYING  
SOMEONE. A  
GIRL.




KAY!!




KAY AND I  
AREN'T EXACTLY  
STRANGERS.  
I'D HAVE  
NOTICED.

NO. TH'S  
LOOKED LIKE  
THE DAUGHTER  
OF SOME  
REFUGEE. SHE  
MUST HAVE BEEN  
TETSUO'S  
GIRLFRIEND..

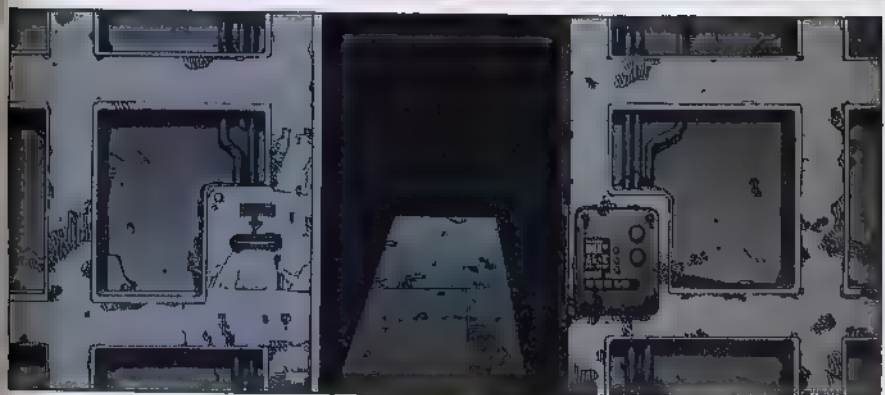
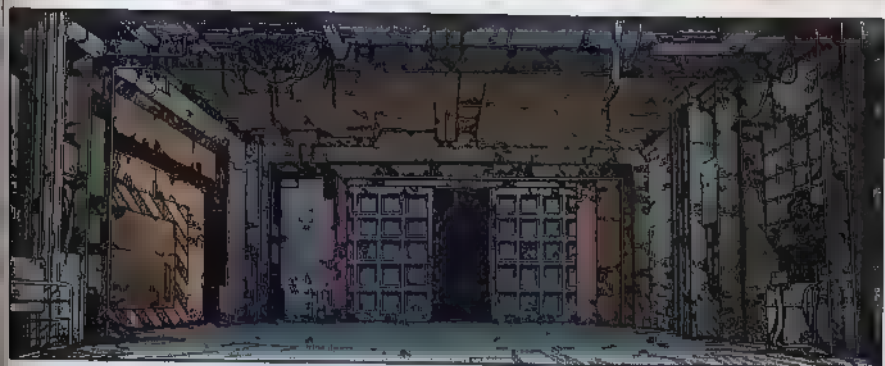
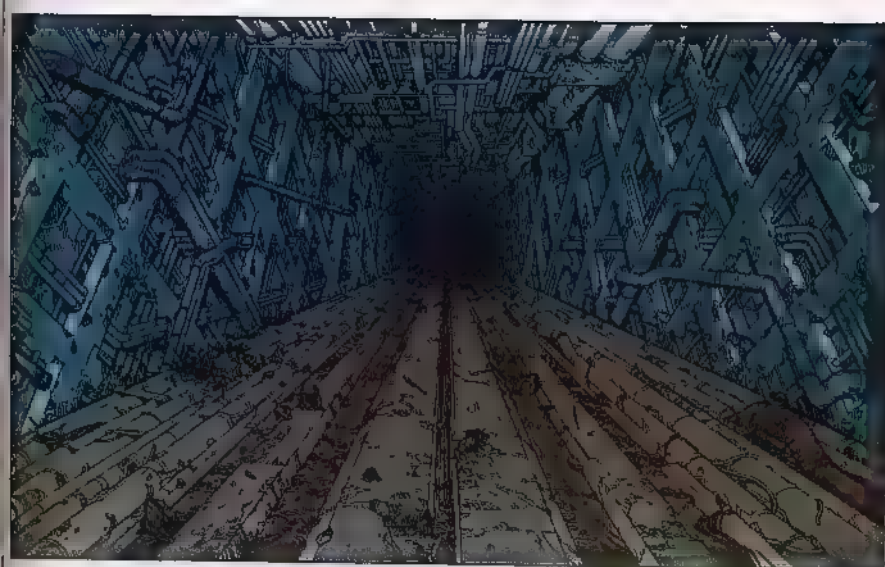


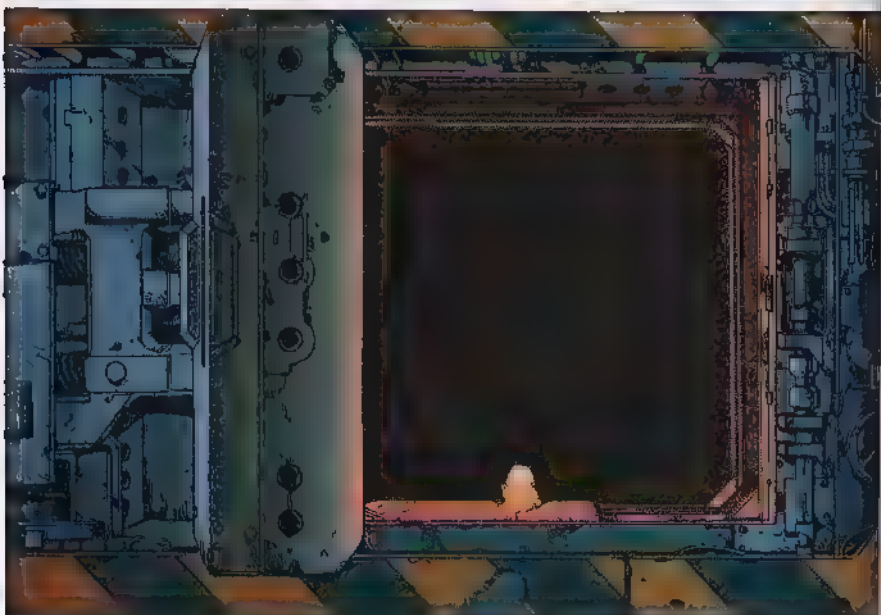
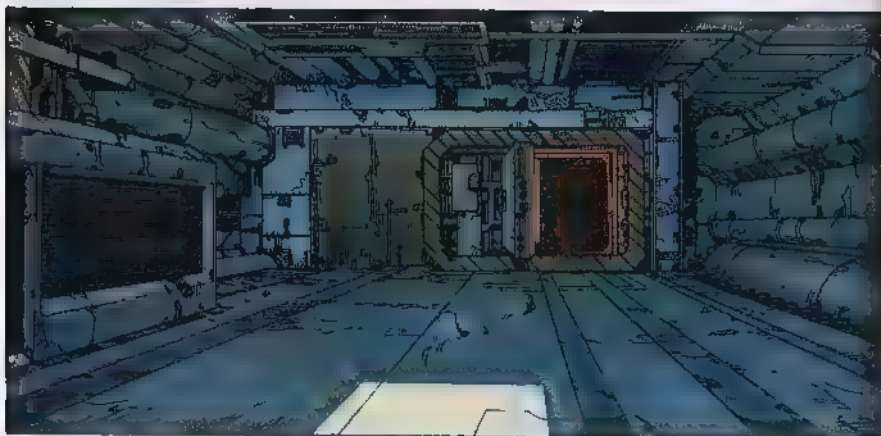
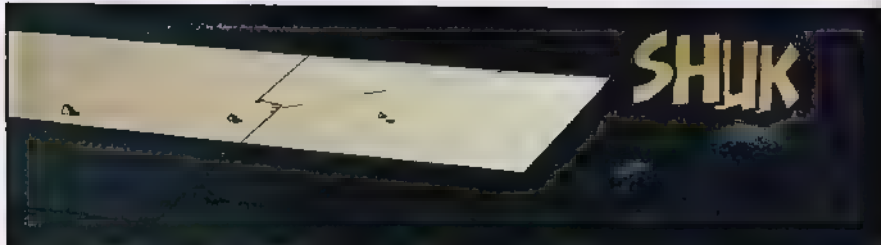
TAKING AKIRA DOWN  
THERE MAY BE LIKE JUMPING  
INTO A FIRE HOLDING  
A LIVE BOMB.

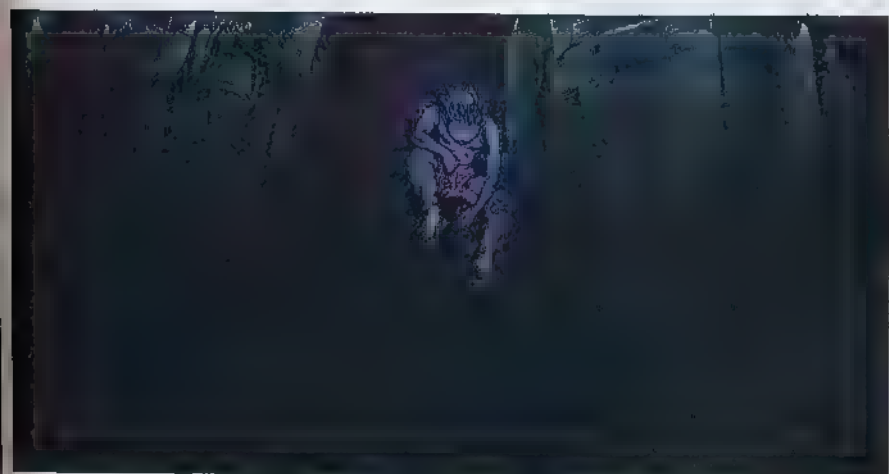
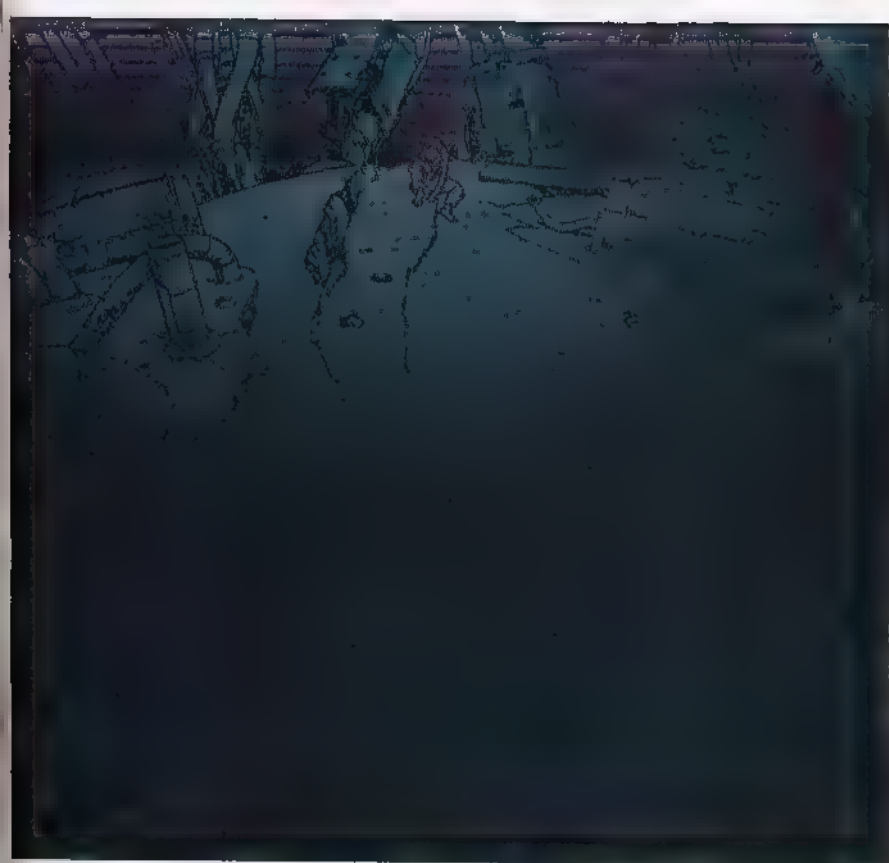


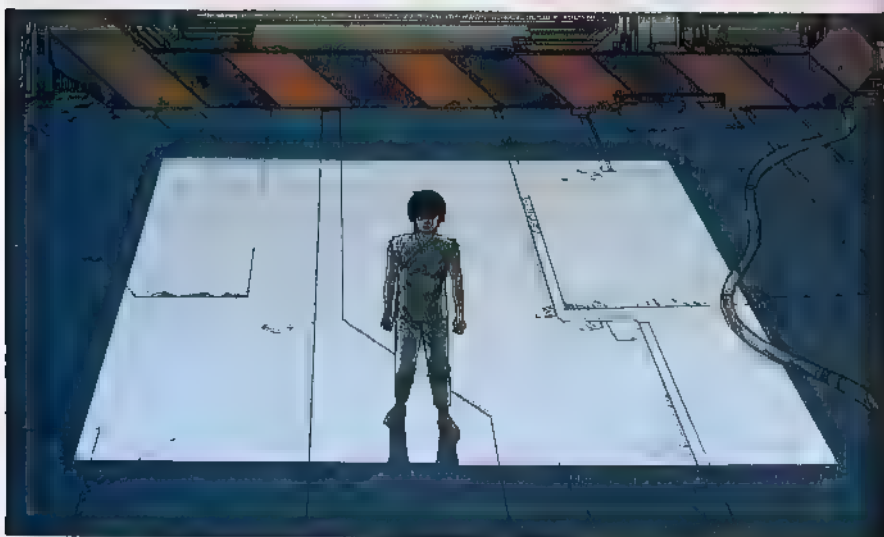
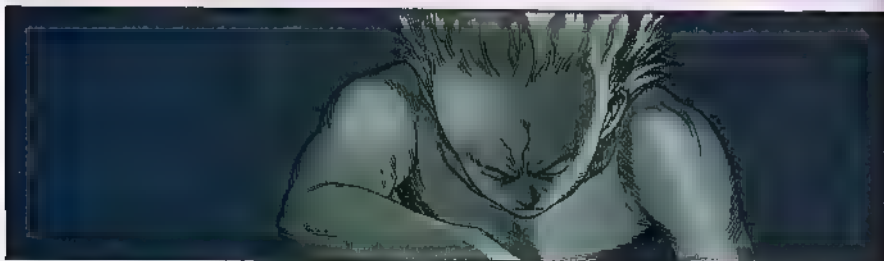
SOMETIMES THE  
BEST WAY OF  
FIGHTING FIRE IS  
WITH A LITTLE HIGH  
EXPLOSIVE



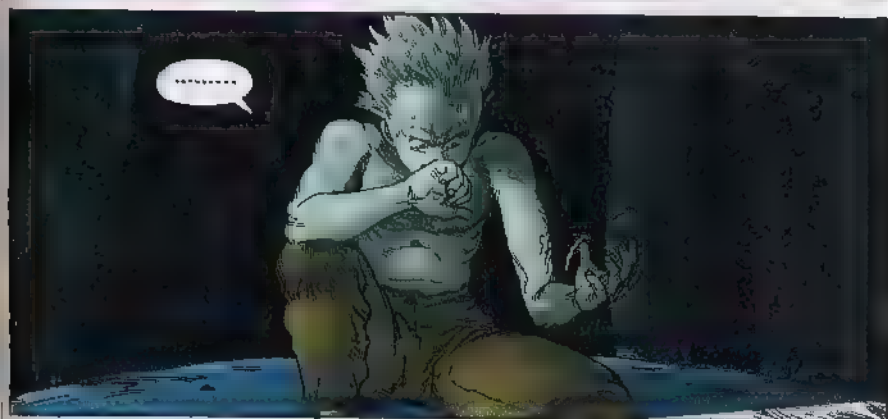
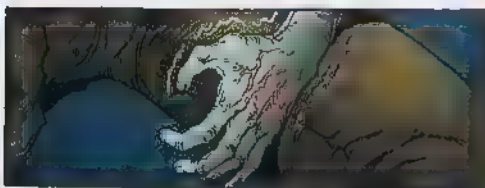
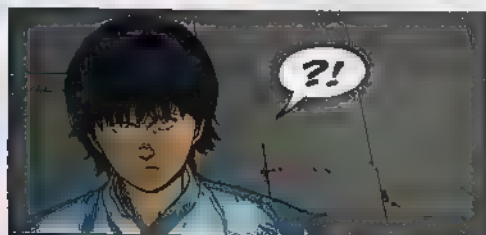
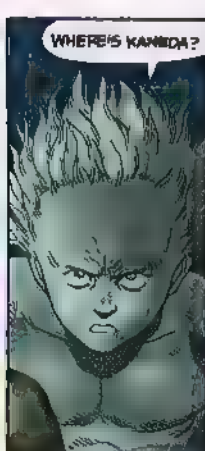
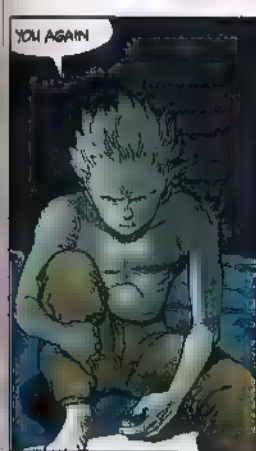


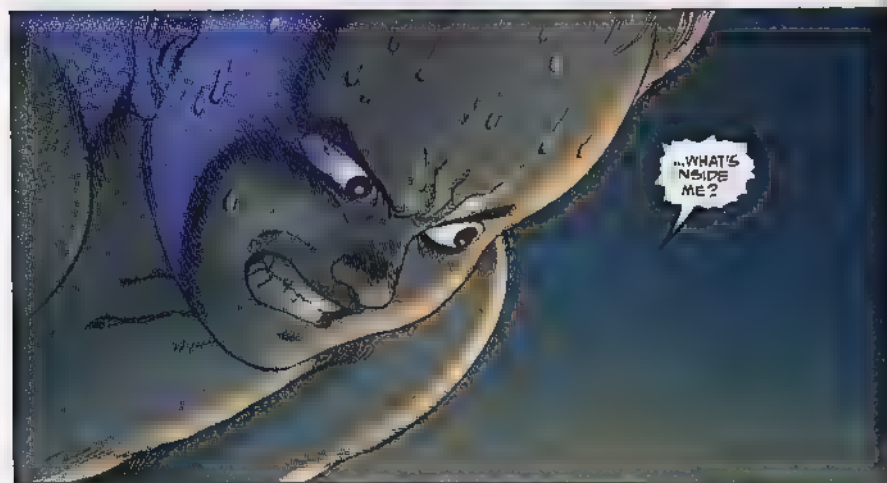
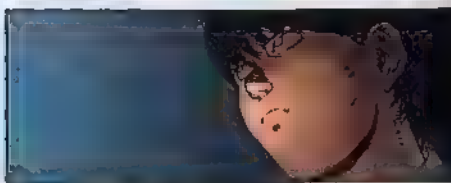
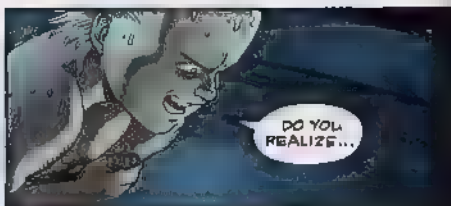
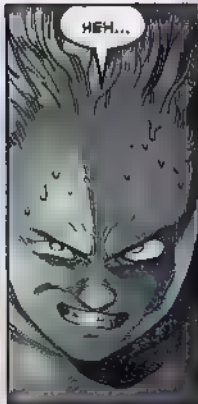
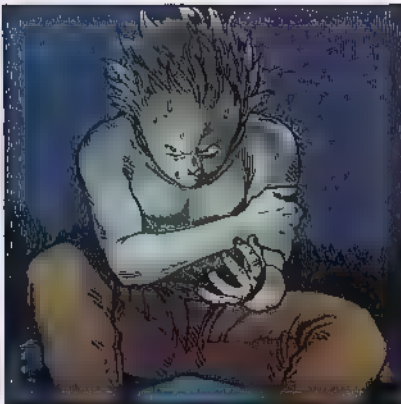








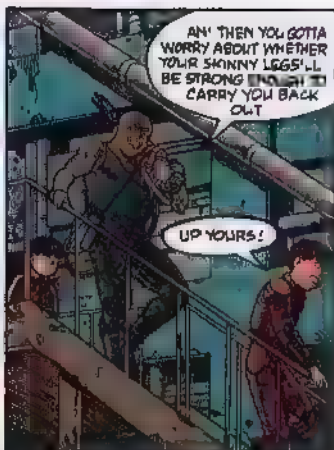






THIS PLACE IS HUGE!

AT THIS RATE WE WON'T GET DOWN THERE TILL TOMORROW!

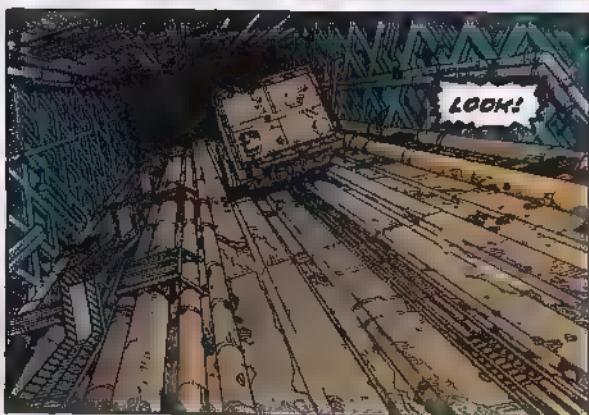


AN! THEN YOU GOTTA WORRY ABOUT WHETHER YOUR SKINNY LEGS'LL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY YOU BACK OUT

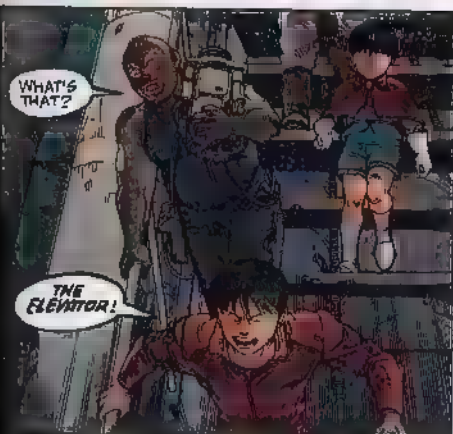
UP YOURS!



HUHH?!

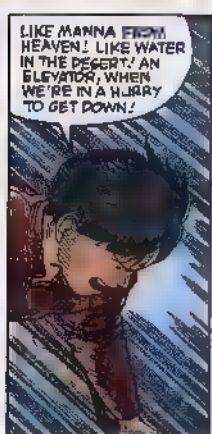
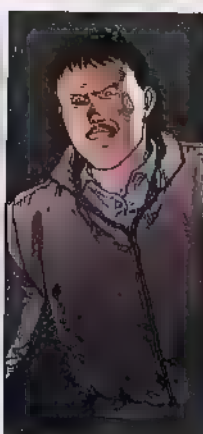


LOOK!

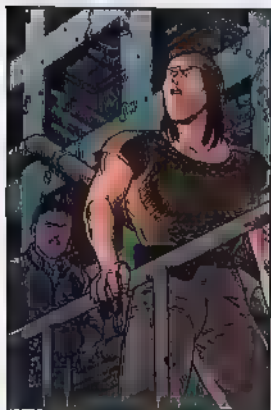
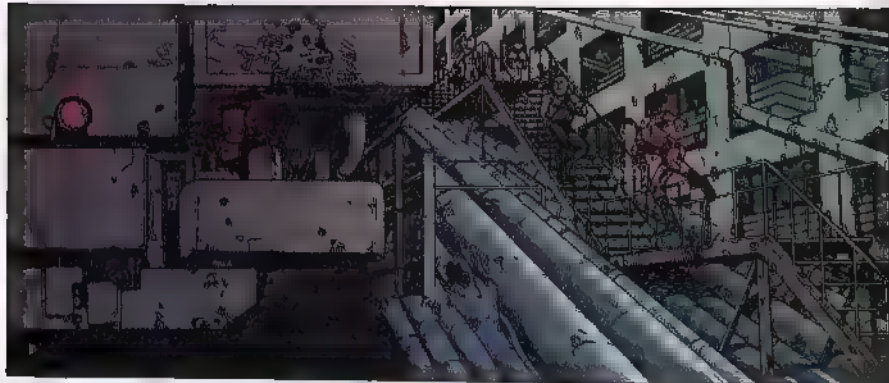


WHAT'S THAT?

THE ELEVATOR!



LIKE MANNA FROM HEAVEN! LIKE WATER IN THE DESERT! AN ELEVATOR, WHEN WE'RE IN A HURRY TO GET DOWN!





HAHAHAHAHA  
HAHAHAHA...



YOU  
CRACK ME  
UP!

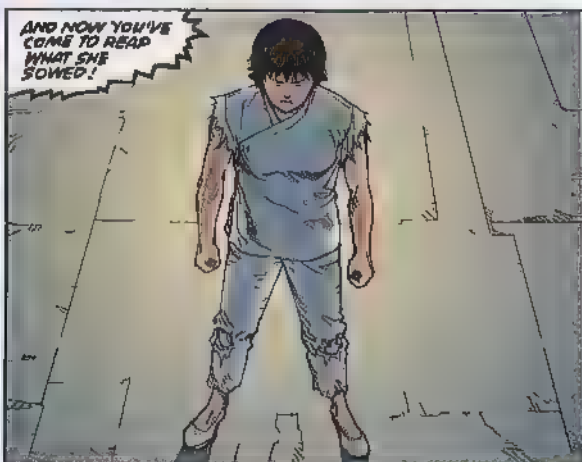


...TELLING  
ME IT'S UP  
TO ME...

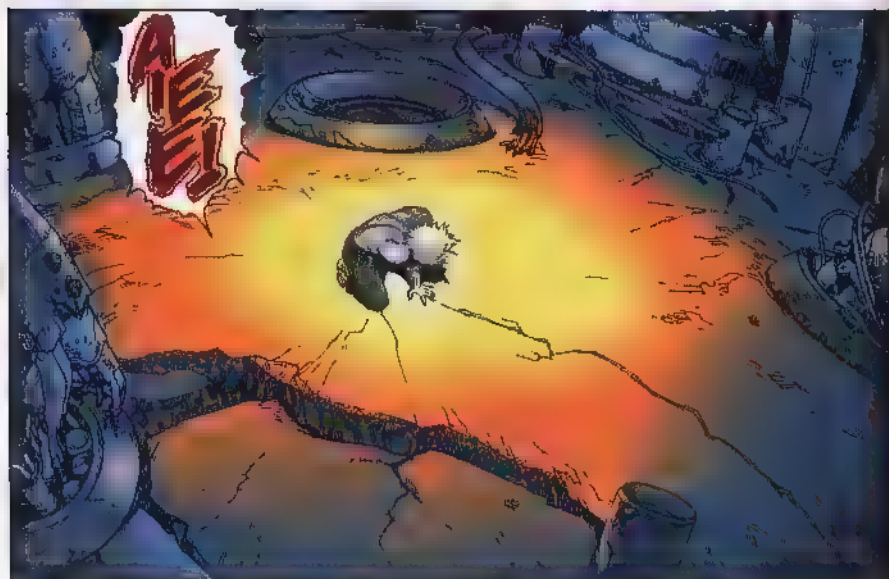
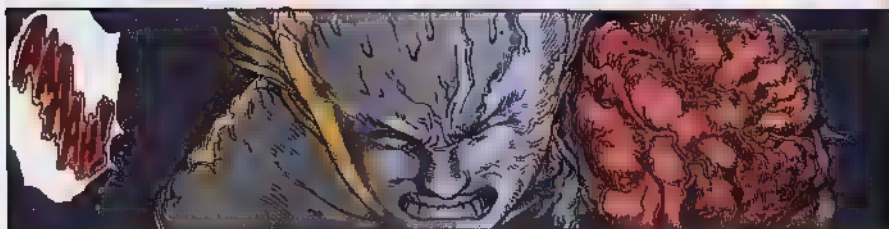
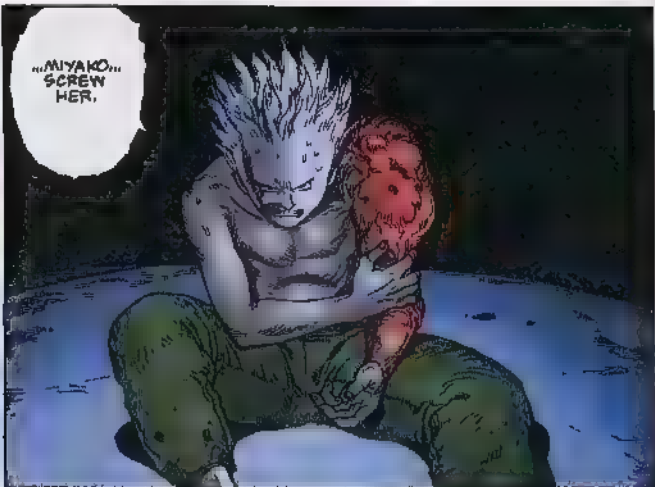
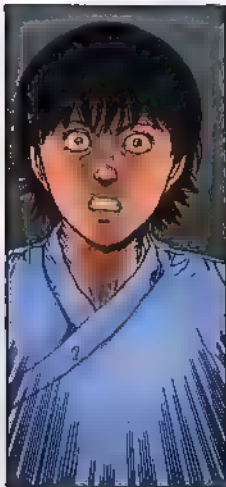
..CONTROL  
MYSELF...  
CONTROL  
AKIRA..

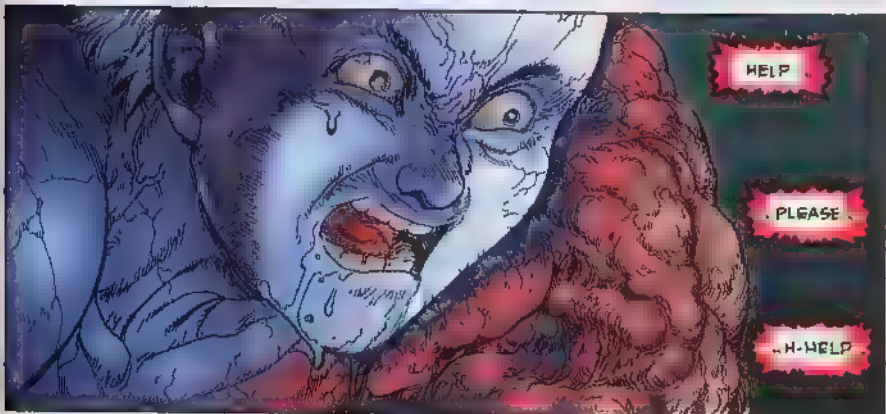
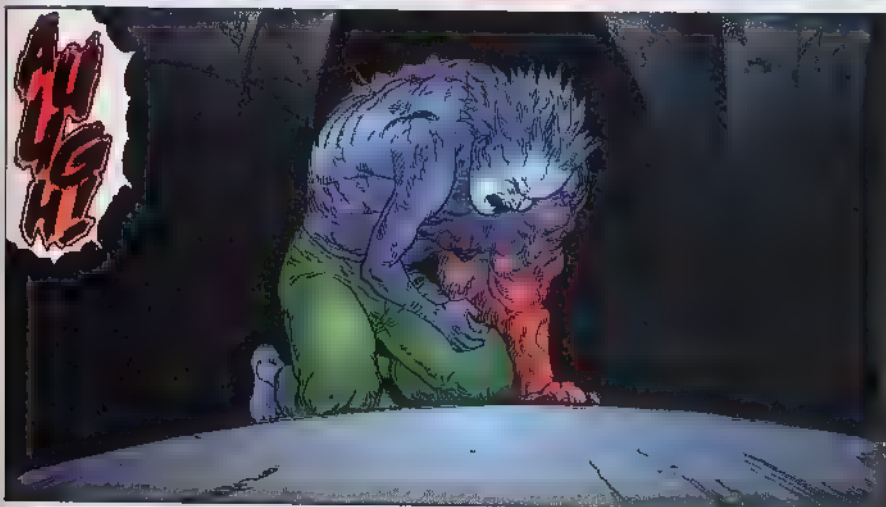
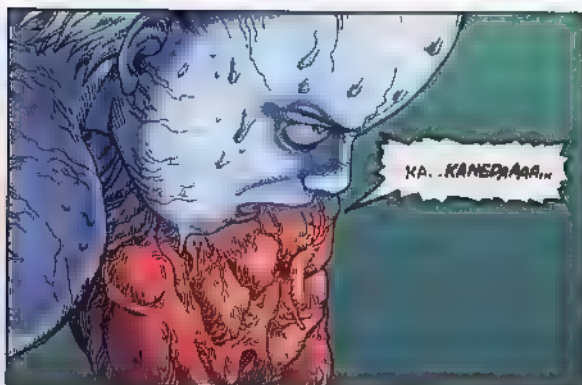


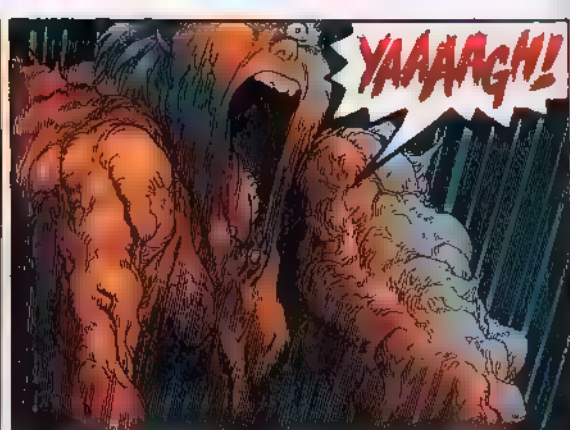
THAT BITCH  
SCAMMED  
ME! AN' I  
FELL FOR  
IT!



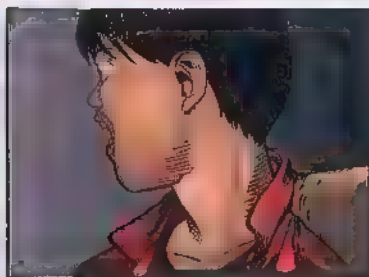
AND NOW YOU'VE  
COME TO READ  
WHAT SHE  
SOWED!

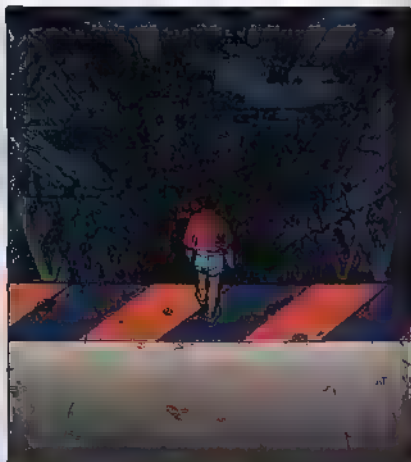


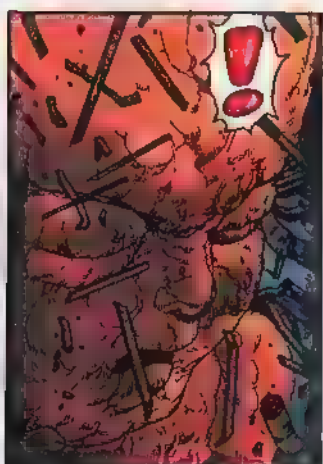
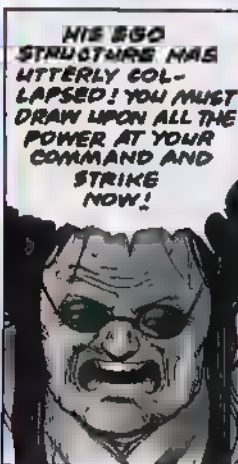
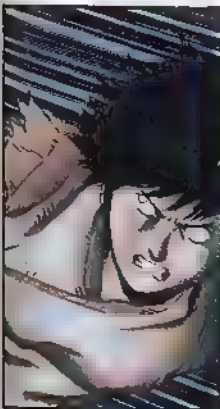


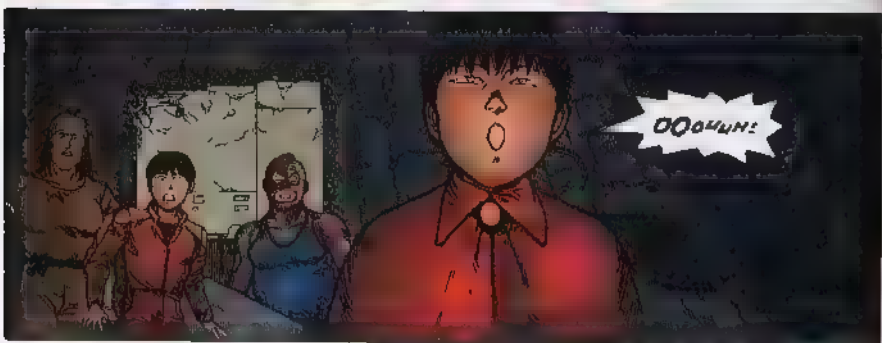
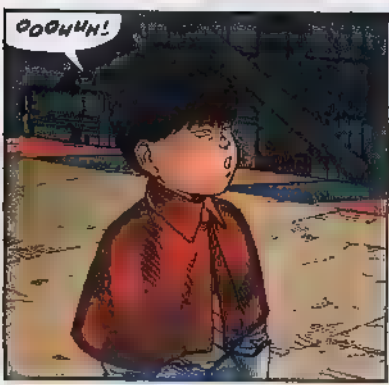




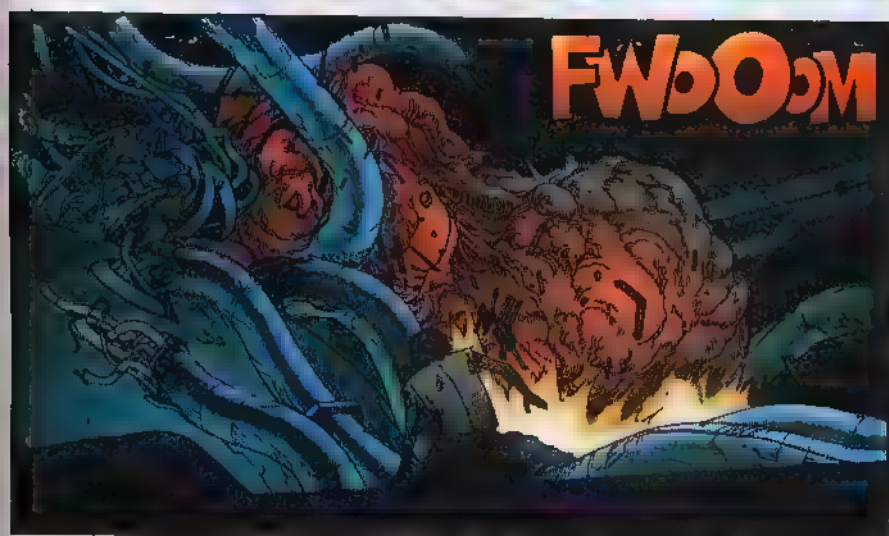


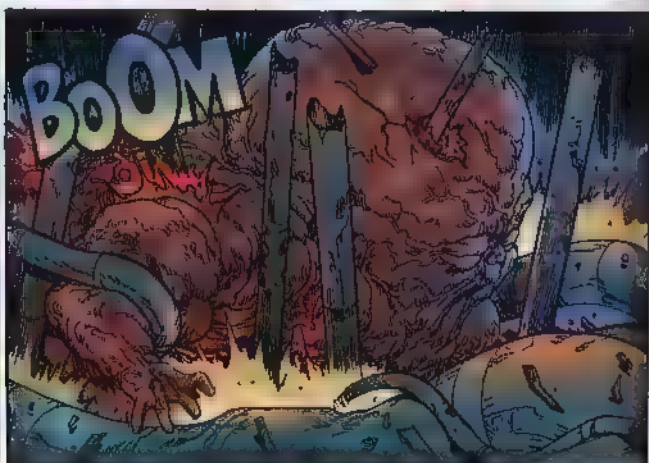
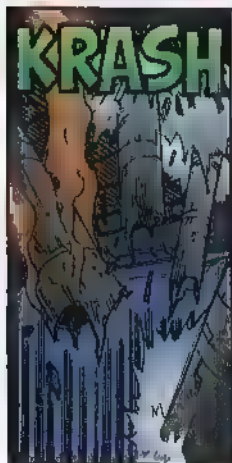
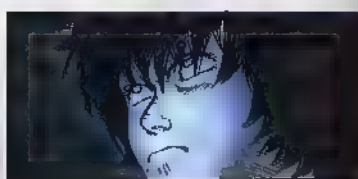
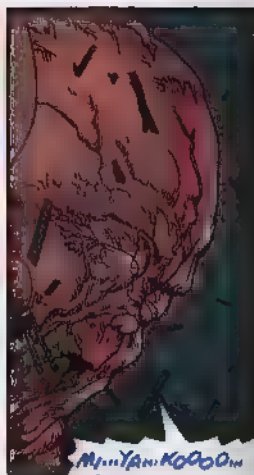
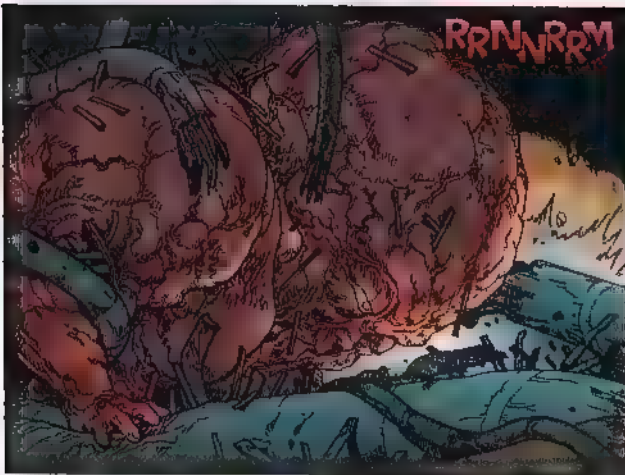


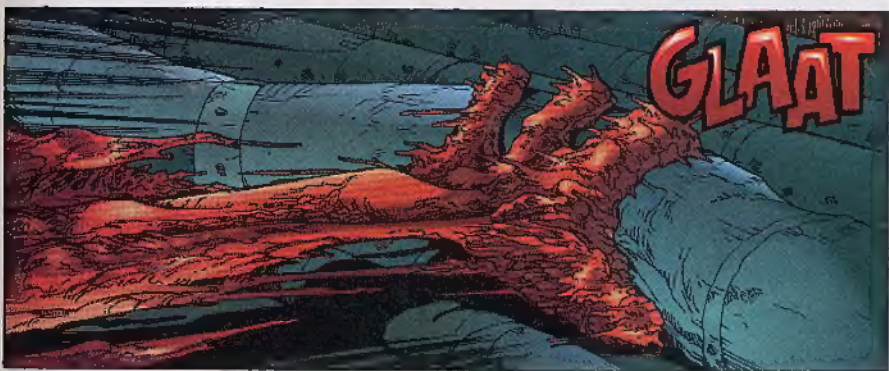
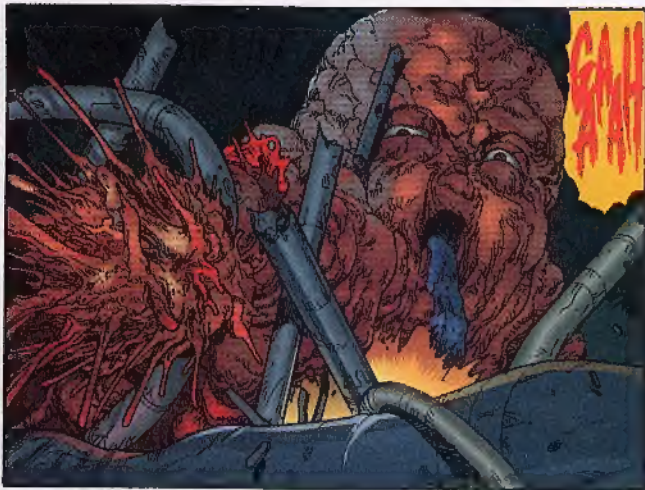
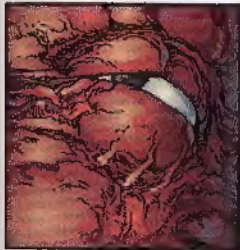




















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**CARL POTTS**  
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**T**he wagons have drawn into circles on the rubble strewn plain of Neo-Tokyo, those still surviving forging lines of defense to hold off the furies that rail against them all. Aboard an American warship, fighting men trade ordnance for escape in a desperate attempt to stay alive. Within the weakening ramparts of her temple, Lady Miyako shelters young children holding the secrets of powers older than time. Beneath the city's labyrinthine infrastructure, the berserker named Tetsuo struggles to hold himself together against attacks that tear at his body and soul.

A most terrible siege has set in across this metropolis-turned-battlefield. . .and the walls have started to crumble.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



DIRECT EDITION

